#1220005 OHT 10/23/85

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

MVC
F
443
R&
P57x

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS LIBRARIES
3 2109 00684 0103

Tennessee County History Series

EDITORIAL BOARD

Frank B. Williams, Editor for East Tennessee
Robert E. Corlew, III, Editor for Middle Tennessee
Charles W. Crawford, Editor for West Tennessee
J. Ralph Randolph, Coordinator

EDITORIAL STAFF

Anne B. Hurley
Ginny S. Slagle

TENNESSEE COUNTY HISTORY SERIES

Rutherford County

by Mabel Pittard

Robert E. Corlew, III
Editor

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Memphis, Tennessee

Copyright © 1984 by Memphis State University Press

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without permission from the publisher.

Maps prepared by MSU Cartographic Services Laboratory

Manufactured in the United States of America

Designed by Gary G. Gore

ISBN 0–87870–182–6

Library of Congress card number 84-62412

To my husband, Dr. Homer Pittard, historian of Rutherford County from October 11, 1965, until his death on July 2, 1981. Had he lived, Dr. Pittard would have written this history in a far more interesting and informative manner than I have been able to achieve. However, much of his research is reflected in the pages that follow and I dedicate this effort to his memory.

Acknowledgements

Material for the preparation of this history was based largely upon research conducted over a period of some 30 years by my husband, Homer Pittard. These eforts resulted in a collection of old newspapers, diaries, documents, books, journals, correspondence, and personal interviews with those who shared his interests. Much of Dr. Pittard's collection of research material grew out of countless hours which the two of us spent in the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The kind assistance and aid given by the library and archive staff members are gratefully acknowledged. Appreciation is expressed to Dr. Bealer Smotherman who photographed many of the illustrations used in this volume.

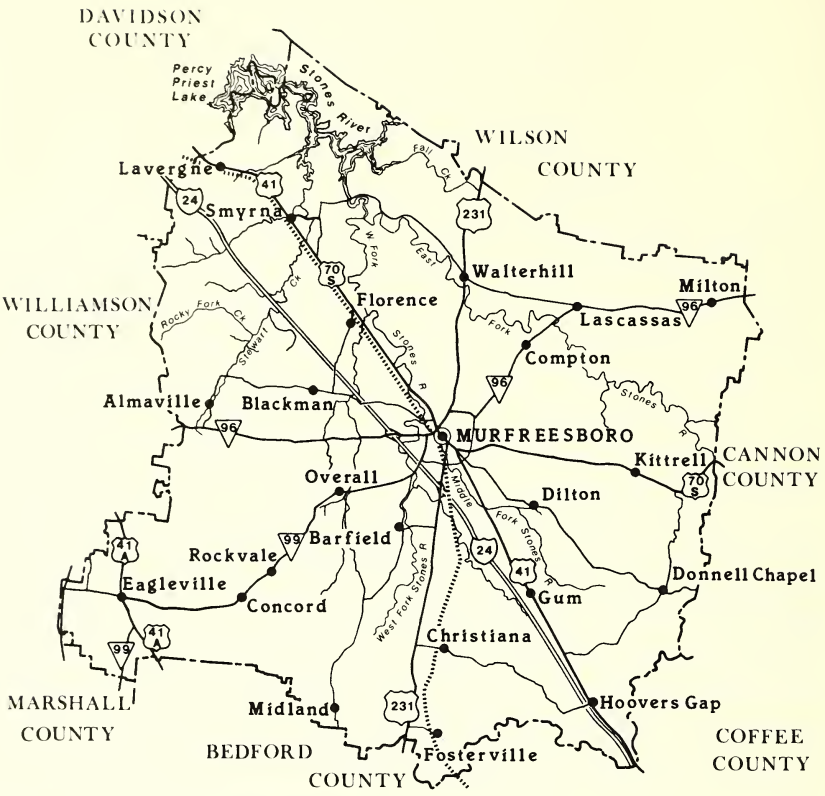
The writer also wishes to acknowledge the excellent source of material found in the publications of the Rutherford County Historical Society whose members have diligently researched various aspects of historical Rutherford County.

The writer found a *A History of Rutherford County*, edited by C. C. Sims, and *The Story of Murfreesboro*, by C. C. Henderson, to be of great value as sources of recorded facts, dates, incidents, and other information relative to the development of the county.

The writer is deeply greatful to her family and friends for the encouragement and interest which they evidenced toward her involvement in this project.

RUTHERFORD County contains within its boundaries the exact geographical center of the state of Tennessee. This designation came about as a result of actions taken in 1834 by delegates to the Second Constitutional Convention of the State of Tennessee. One of the topics under discussion at the Convention was that of selecting a permanent location for the capital of the state. Murfreesboro, seat of government for Rutherford County, was among those cities desiring to secure this honor. During the deliberations the suggestion was made that the capital should be located as near as possible to the exact center of the state. The delegates adopted a resolution directing that the Secretary of State initiate an effort to determine the true center of Tennessee. The matter was referred to James Hamilton, a University of Nashville professor, who determined through mathematical calculations that the center was an extensive rock covering of approximately three acres located about one and one-half miles east of Murfreesboro on what is now the Old Lascassas Highway. Although Murfreesboro was not named the capital, the county has the unique distinction of being designated the geographical center of the state.

Rutherford County is located in the Central Basin, one of the seven geographical regions of Tennessee. This basin extends southward from the Tennessee-Kentucky line to the boundary



RUTHERFORD COUNTY

LEGEND

- COUNTY SEAT
- Other Communities
- Interstate Route
- Federal Route
- State Route
- Local Route
- RAIL SERVICE
- Major Streams
- Minor Streams

MSU Cartographic Services Laboratory

SOURCE Tennessee Department of Transportation

between Alabama and Tennessee. The basin is approximately 100 miles long and about 50 miles wide, with the center of the basin being located in the western section of Rutherford County. The basin, which is surrounded by the Highland Rim whose hills attain heights of 1300 feet in some places, has an average elevation of 600 feet. This bowl-shaped indentation in the center of the state has often been referred to as the "Dimple of the Universe," and Rutherford lies in the center of that "dimple."

It is unique that the Central Basin was carved by the forces of nature out of a dome–the Nashville Dome. Geologists say that millions of years ago a peneplain, an area reduced to a plain by erosion, extended across Middle Tennessee. At the end of the Eocene Period, the plain was from 1000 to 1200 feet lower in Rutherford County than it now is, Powerful upward-pushing forces from deep within the earth forced this peneplain to rise and arch its way across the center of the state. No one knows the exact elevation which the Nashville Dome may have reached; however, it is thought that the height may have been similar to that of the present-day Highland Rim. Short Mountain in Cannon County, Pilot Knob near Readyville, and the high hills east and southeast of Milton are thought to be some of the few remaining evidences of the probable height which the dome attained.

Geologists' explanation for the formation of the Central Basin out of the dome is that, in time, streams began to cut through the hard insoluble chert at places where the rocks were bent and cracked as they were stretched over the emerging dome. When further rising took place, the running water began cutting into the soluble limestone below. The hard chert served as an abrasive force in the wearing away of the limestone. Thus, abrasion, weathering, and erosion accounted for the formation of this oval-shaped indentation in the midsection of Tennessee.

The rocks under the Highland Rim Peneplain consisted almost entirely of brittle limestone. At broken places in the strata water seeped through the joints and cracks, and funnel-shaped holes of considerable size were thus formed. These holes, called

sink holes, are to be found by the thousands over Rutherford County. When these holes became large enough, caves were formed. One of the most interesting caves in the county is Snail Shell Cave located in the western part of the county. A huge opening leads down for about 100 feet to a subterranean stream of clear cold water that emerges from one cave and passes into another. The floor and walls of the cave are dotted with wild flowers, ferns, and snail shells. One of the oldest sink holes in the county is the one from which Black Fox Spring runs. Near Kittrell there is a 60-foot sink hole and cave. When the underground water from these sinks and channels comes to the surface, it emerges as a spring. Because sink holes are so numerous in the county, many springs are to be found along the streams. These springs provide drinking water for people and stock. However, during rainy weather, surface water drains into these springs resulting in the possibility of contamination. Sulphur water flows from several springs in the county. One of the best-known of these is Sulphur Springs near Jefferson. Many of the wells in the county also give off strong sulphuric gases.

Rutherford County, which has an area of approximately 600 square miles, is bounded on the north by Wilson County, on the east by Cannon and Coffee counties, on the south by Bedford and Marshall counties, and on the west by Williamson and Davidson counties. According to the U.S. Census, the population of the county in 1980 was 84,020. The eastern, southern, and western boundary lines are very irregular—perhaps due to the efforts on the part of the State Legislature to accommodate the wishes of farmers who wanted all of their land to lie within one county.

The climate is temperate, and the growing season is long enough to allow for the production of a variety of crops. The annual rainfall is about 50 inches. Perhaps the two most valuable natural assets of the county are the good soil and the abundance of rocks. The soil is by far the most valuable of the two but area rocks are suitable for making roads and cement, and for the liming of the soil.

The areas of bare rocks in Rutherford County, known as glades, are of two kinds: (1) the red-cedar glades where only cedars and prickly pears will grow, and (2) the massive rock glades where sufficient soil has been deposited between the rocks to accommodate the growth of hardwood trees. However, there are areas of glades in the county where nothing will grow. An example of this is the three-acre rock covering that has been designated the center of the state. Although cedar glades occupy a large portion of the county, most of the red cedar was removed years ago when the Red Cedar Bucket Factory was in operation in Murfreesboro.

Rutherford County is drained almost wholly by Stones River. The river has cut down to a maximum depth of about 40 feet at Jefferson and about 60 feet where the river leaves Rutherford and enters Davidson County. There are numerous small falls along the river, and in the past these falls provided power for the operation of grist- and sawmills. The western section of the county, near Eagleville, is drained by the headwaters of the Harpeth River, while the water which falls south of Eagleville drains out through the tributaries of the Duck River.

The highest elevations in the county are found among the belt of hills where Rutherford County joins Cannon, Coffee, and Bedford counties. Pilot Knob, near the Cannon County line, is one of the highest, with an elevation of more than 1200 feet. This peak was used by the Indians as a lookout post. During the Civil War it was used for the same purpose by both Northern and Southern armies. In the western section, where Rutherford borders Williamson County, there is a range of hills about 1200 feet in elevation. Signal Mountain and Sumners Knob are two of the highest peaks found in this area. Between Rutherford and Davidson counties the land is fairly level, dotted here and there with small round hills. In the central and western parts of the county the land is level or rolling, and it is here that the most fertile soil is found. Rich deposits of phosphate have made the region very suitable for agriculture and dairying.

Indian Heritage

Rutherford County does not offer the rich and varied archaeological discoveries found in nearby counties. However, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that various Indian cultures traveled and hunted in this area. The earliest of the Native Americans who inhabited the North American continent have been classified by archaeologists as the Paleo man, a race that was nomadic and primarily interested in hunting. These aborigines of probable Asiatic stock are thought to have reached North America some 10,000–15,000 years ago by way of the Bering Sea when it was covered with ice. The projectiles which they used in the hunting of bison, elk, deer, and mammoth had large fluted points. The Archaic culture, dating from about 5000 B.C. to 2000 B.C., was less nomadic and tended to live in a more concentrated area. Their projectile points were smaller, and their major weapon was the throwing spear. They used bone, shell, and stones for making tools and ornaments. Projectile points and a tooth necklace of this epoch have been unearthed in Rutherford County.

Of much greater significance was the Woodland culture which started about 2000 B.C. These people were the first to use the bow and arrow, to weave, and to manufacture pottery. They engaged in agriculture, fishing, and hunting. They built earthen mounds which were used as ceremonial burial places. Although none of these mounds have been found in Rutherford County, some artifacts of this period have been unearthed, such as projectiles and one piece of pottery.

The most recent Indian culture in Middle Tennessee was the Mississippian, which appeared about 1000 A.D. These people refined the technological advances which their predecessors, the Woodland Indians, had begun. Villages sprang up; agriculture became more intensified; sports, games, and community life appeared. Very small triangular points typified their projectiles. F. C. Youree of the Cripple Creek community in Rutherford County has in his possession a number of artifacts from the Mississippian era that have been unearthed on his farm. These include a

greenstone pipe, a throwing weight, and a quartz disk about four inches in diameter used in the Indian game of "chungke" in which the stone was propelled over the ground by means of a wooden stick. The abundance of arrowheads found in this county bear evidence to the extensive hunting carried on in this region by the Mississippian man.

From all accounts, there were no permanent Indian settlements in what is now Rutherford County. Rather, all of Middle Tennessee was an Indian hunting reserve, and many tribes fought over the rights to these hunting grounds. The Cherokees, Creeks, Chickasaws, and even the Iroquois claimed hunting rights there. None of the tribes dared live in the area for fear of attack from rival claimants. It is conjectured that the Shawnees may have at one time settled along the Cumberland River, only to have been expelled by the Cherokees and Chickasaws. The Iroquois, who lived around the Great Lakes region, claimed that their ancestors have conquered a large portion of the central area of Kentucky and Tennessee. They appointed the Cherokees on the east and the Chickasaws on the west as guardians of their hunting park.

It has been said that three Indian trails traversed what is now Rutherford County. The first of these, the Wartrace Trail, began near Nashville and entered Rutherford County near Eagleville. From there it proceeded eastward to Wartrace Creek, from which it received its name, and thence to the Tennessee River in northern Alabama. This trail, also known as the "Great South Trail," was, in time, worn down by buffalo to a depth of one or two feet and a width of three or four feet. A second trail, the Nickajack Trail, entered Rutherford County just west of Smyrna and La Vergne. It left the county just north of Beech Grove in Coffee County. The third trail, known as "Black Fox Trail," began at the Cherokee settlements along the Hiwassee River in East Tennessee and entered Rutherford County near the present location of the Murfreesboro-Woodbury turnpike. It proceeded westward across the county to Black Fox Spring. There it split into two trails, one joining the Nickajack Trail and the other continuing on to Nashville.

Black Fox Springs in Rutherford County, about three miles southeast of Murfreesboro, was used as a campsite by the Indians on hunting expeditions as well as a base for attacks on early Cumberland settlers. A trading post was located near the springs where white settlers and Indians exchanged goods. The name of the springs is derived from the famous Cherokee Indian chief, Black Fox, who often camped there. An interesting Rutherford County legend relates that while Black Fox and his followers were camped at the springs in 1794 they were attacked by General Ore and his expedition which had been sent by Gen. James Robertson from the Cumberland settlement. Black Fox was said to have been surrounded by his enemies and all of his followers were slain. Since the body of Black Fox could not be found among the dead, legend has it that the Cherokee Indian chief jumped into the spring and disappeared. The waters of Black Fox Spring enter the ground and later emerge at Murfree Spring. Bones, later found in the Murfree Spring, were thought to have been those of the great chief, Black Fox.

Although the Indian tribes themselves fought over rights to the Middle Tennessee hunting grounds, it is understandable why they resented the intrusion of the white man into their domain. It is understandable why the Indians made war against the early settlers trying to drive them away from lands which they claimed as their own. But the white men came in increasing numbers—hunters, traders, land speculators, settlers, and military leaders. The day came when the hunting grounds no longer knew the soft tread of the Indian hunter, nor did the sun glisten on his arrow as it sped on its way to likely game.

The Historical Background

The territory which is now Tennessee, and of which Rutherford County is a part, had been claimed by three European powers — Spain, England, and France. Spain based her claims on the discovery of the New World by Columbus and on De Soto's explorations in 1541. France claimed the area as a result of the explorations of Marquette, Joliet, and La Salle along the Missis-

sippi River. England laid claim to the region as an extension of the colony of Virginia.

Under a charter granted in 1606 by King James II of England, Tennessee became a part of the land lying within the colony of Virginia. About sixty years later, in 1663, King Charles II made a gift of the land south of Virginia to eight of his noble friends. Tennessee was included in this grant, which later became known as the colony of Carolina. In 1729 the Carolina colony was restored to the crown and was divided into North and South Carolina, with what is now Tennessee becoming a part of North Carolina.

By 1710 the French had opened a trading post on the Cumberland River, near the present site of Nashville, to service their substantial fur trading operation. The French government also erected forts in Tennessee to protect her Indian trade and to fortify lands to which she laid claim.

By 1750 the British had begun to build forts among the Indians in an effort to counteract the French influences. About this time Dr. Thomas Walker, along with a group of explorers, discovered the Cumberland Gap through which pioneers, land speculators, and hunters were soon to find their way into the heart of the continent.

The French tried to prevent this migration onto lands which they claimed, and eventually conflicts between Britain and France led to the French and Indian War. Great Britain dispatched General Braddock with a large army to aid the colonists in their conflicts with the French. Great Britain was victorious, and France was forced to give up all claims to lands east of the Mississippi River except New Orleans.

After the treaty with France, George III of England, desirous of keeping peace with the Indians, ordered his subjects not to go any farther west than the crest of the Appalachian Mountains. The pioneers and land speculators, however, were determined not to let this order stand in their way when fertile and seemingly unoccupied land was waiting for them. So by 1771 pioneers, who came to be known as Wataugans, had settled in

the eastern part of Tennessee near the French Broad and Holston rivers.

By 1776, the Wataugans realized that the imminence of war with Great Britain and the remote circumstances under which they lived posed an ever-increasing danger to their safety. Wishing to become a part of an older and more established government, they petitioned North Carolina to accept them as a part of that state.

Once accepted into the state of North Carolina, the settlements became known as the Washington District which, in 1777, became Washington County. This newly created county included all of what is now Tennessee. It was at this time that the East Tennesseans were subjected to some of the most formidable attacks from the Indians. Encouraged by the British, bands of Indians who had settled along the Tennessee River interferred with the navigation along the river and constantly invaded the white settlements. It was only through the efforts of John Sevier, Evan Shelby, and other courageous Wataugans that this menace was finally lessened, and adventurous pioneers of East Tennessee were able to embark upon the hazardous settlement of Middle Tennessee.

In the fall of 1779 a band of daring Wataugans left the East Tennessee settlement for the Cumberland region. Gen. James Robertson and about 200 men left the Watauga settlement late in October, following a route that led them through Kentucky. There were no bridges, roads, or ferries, and it took them over two months to make the 500-mile journey through the wilderness. When they arrived in early January, at the spot where Nashville is today, they found the Cumberland River frozen solid and they walked across on the ice. Before leaving Watauga they had decided that a river route would provide more safety and comfort for the women and children. A fleet of about 30 flatboats, dugouts, and canoes was constructed and the flotilla was placed under the protection of Col. John Donelson. Between 200 and 300 people followed the water route to the Cumberland region. The little fleet, leaving late in February 1780, encountered unforeseen dangers and perils. Indian attacks, the swift rapids at Muscle Shoals, illness, and shortage of food had to be

overcome before they arrived at Nashborough in April of 1780. Rachel Donelson, a young girl at the time who later became the wife of Andrew Jackson, was among the passengers on this dangerous expedition. The party traveled over 1000 miles on four different rivers.

In May of 1780 the Cumberland settlers began efforts to organize a government for the new settlement. With an Anglo-Saxon instinct for law and order, they drew up their own constitution—the Cumberland Compact—at the same time assuring the General Assembly of North Carolina of their obedience to the laws and constitution of that state. It remained for the Cumberland settlers, however, to protect themselves from the hostility of the Indians.

Blockhouses and forts saved these pioneers from destruction, but they were unable to venture out to cultivate their crops. Starvation threatened and ammunition was running low. General Robertson made a perilous journey to the East to secure ammunition and returned just in time to help repulse a ferocious Indian attack. Soon after, General Robertson entered into an alliance with the Chickasaws who ever afterwards were the faithful allies of the Cumberland settlers. Roving bands of Cherokees, Creeks, and Chickamaugas, however, continued hostilities, firing from ambush, waylaying travelers, and keeping the settlers in constant alarm. This irregular warfare was followed by a concerted invasion of about 500 Indians, mostly Cherokee, on Fort Nashborough. In a moment of desperation during the fierce Indian attack, Mrs. Robertson opened the gates and loosed a number of large dogs upon the Indians, putting them to flight and scattering their horses. This incident, with well-directed fire from the fort, repulsed the attack. The Indians now abandoned plans to attack fortified places and instituted guerrilla warfare. They were determined to drive the settlers from the country by preventing them from raising crops. Many of the settlers had been slain, others had returned East, agriculture had been destroyed, and starvation seemed to threaten the remainder.

Following the signing of the peace treaty between the United States and Great Britain veterans of the Revolutionary War were

given grants of land in the western territories as payment for their services. They came to the Cumberland area to settle on these lands, bringing with them their families and friends. This tide of immigration brought to the Middle Tennessee settlements reinforcements of experienced and hardy defenders at a time when such aid was desperately needed.

By 1784 North Carolina was taking steps to give all of her lands west of the mountains to the United States government. There were four counties in what is now Tennessee—Washington, Sullivan, and Greene in East Tennessee and Davidson in Middle Tennessee. The three eastern counties, disturbed at North Carolina's actions, took steps to form their own government—the State of Franklin. Davidson County took no part in this effort at self-government. By 1790 the United States had accepted North Carolina's offer and all of what is now Tennessee became the Territory of the United States South of the Ohio River (also called the Southwest Territory). William Blount was appointed Governor of the territory.

During the six years of the existence of the Southwest Territory (1790–1796) the Spanish, who controlled the Mississippi River and the vast region west of it, were constantly inciting the Cherokees and Creeks to make war on the infant settlement near the Cumberland. General Robertson repeatedly asked permission from Governor Blount to invade the Indian strongholds along the Tennessee River. The lower towns of the Chickamaugas, Nickajack, Running Water, and others served as secure points of retreat for maurading Indian parties since the Tennessee River acted as a buffer zone between them and the white settlers. Blount refused Robertson's request for retalitation.

By 1794 Indian raids had become so fierce that General Robertson decided to submit to them no longer. Although he had no governmental sanction for military actions against the lower towns, he gathered bands of frontiersmen from the Cumberland settlement, the Kentucky settlements, and the scattered outposts in or near Nashborough. As these separate elements were gathering, a detachment of mounted militia led by Maj. James Ore (who had been sent by Governor Blount to oversee the defense of

Nashborough) arrived in the Cumberland area. Convinced by General Robertson that an attack by the Indians was imminent, Ore agreed to add his forces to the cause. Since Ore was the only authorized officer in the force, Robertson hoped that Ore's presence would lend an atmosphere of governmental sanction to the proposed invasion of the lower Indian towns.

The day prior to the departure of the troops General Robertson sent a letter to Governor Blount to inform him of the proposed plans, stating that the action was a necessary defensive measure. Robertson also informed Blount that Ore and his men were to accompany the local residents who were anxious to get relief from Indian hostilities. Governor Blount immediately sent orders forbidding the venture, but by the time the orders arrived Ore and his troops were well on their way to the lower towns.

Early on the morning of September 7, 1794, Major Ore led his troops and the crew of frontiersmen out of their camp at Buchanan's Station and marched southward. On the first day they reached Black Fox Springs in what is now Rutherford County. There they encountered Black Fox and his warriors who were encamped at the springs. Nearly all of Black Fox's followers were killed and the body of the famous chief could not be found among the slain or captured. The second day the troops marched to the vicinity of what is now Manchester, Tennessee. They continued their southward trek until September 10, when they reached the Elk River. It took the men three more days to move through the difficult terrain of the mountains. Finally on September 12 they arrived on the north bank of the Tennessee River.

Among the frontiersmen who had volunteered to accompany Major Ore on the expedition was a young man by the name of Joseph Brown. Several years earlier, young Brown along with his parents, brothers and sisters, and five men had chosen to follow Donelson's water route on their way to the Cumberland settlements. Just below the lower towns they were attacked by the Indians. All of the men were slain and Mrs. Brown and her small children were taken captive. The life of young Joseph, who was six years of age at the time, was in jeopardy. Some of the Indians insisted upon killing the young child. One of these was

an old Indian woman who prophesied that if allowed to live Joseph would someday escape and be the means of bringing destruction to their village. During the time he was held captive young Joseph saw and remembered much about the Indian stronghold. Later, after John Sevier had arranged for the release of the Brown family in an exchange of prisoners, young Joseph made his way to the Cumberland settlements. Now in September of 1794 Joseph was to fulfil the old woman's prophecy by leading Major Ore and his men through a secret route into the town of Nickajack, surrounded on three sides by high hills.

Ore and his men completely routed the Indians, and reports stated that out of 200 or more inhabitants only 19 survived. After burning the town, Ore and his men marched upstream and attacked the town of Running Water. The Indians were outnumbered and defeated, and the town was also burned. Ore and his men recrossed the Tennessee River and began their return march to the Cumberland settlements. They arrived in Nashville on September 17, 1794, having been gone only ten days.

The Ore Expedition brought to an end the military potency of the Indians of the lower towns. Governor Blount, while delighted with the destruction of the Indian villages, was infuriated that his orders had been disobeyed. For a time it seemed that Gen. James Robertson might lose his commission but his indiscretions were overlooked and he continued to serve as general until his death in 1814.

The western settlements continued to suffer occasional attacks from roving parties of Creeks, but the Cherokees, after the defeats of Nickajack and Running Water, posed little danger to the frontiersmen. Population throughout the Southwest Territory steadily increased, and soon steps were taken that resulted in the emergence of the state of Tennessee on June 1, 1796.

Early Settlements in Rutherford County

By 1795 events had transpired which spurred the movement of settlers into what is now Rutherford County: the success of the Ore expedition which lessened Indian raids against white

settlers, the signing of a treaty by the United States and Spain after which Spain ceased encouraging Indian hostilities against the western pioneers, and the opening up of the Walton Road across the Cumberland Plateau. Streams of settlers from Nashville moved out of the Cumberland community and opened up farms in all directions. By 1797 many of these settlers were following Stones River and its tributaries into what is now Rutherford County, generally settling along the streams. At this time there were three counties in Middle Tennessee—Sumner, Tennessee, and Davidson. A census ordered by Governor Blount in 1795 showed that there were 11,924 inhabitants in the three counties. Most of what is now Rutherford County lay at that time within Davidson County, with the eastern part of Rutherford being in Sumner County.

By 1797 the flow of emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina had increased, as many came to claim land granted for services in the Revolutionary War. Others came to claim land which they had purchased from large landowners and speculators. North Carolina had stipulated when she turned her western lands over to the federal government that land grants which she had given to her veterans would be protected. Thus many of the early Rutherford County settlers were recipients of such grants from the "Mother State." The Virginia emigrants usually came down the Ohio River to the Cumberland and thence to Stones River and its tributaries. Pioneers from North Carolina for the most part came by oxcart and pack horse over the Cumberland Mountains.

Among the first communities to be established in Rutherford County were those at Stewarts Creek, Black Fox Springs, and at the confluence of the east and west forks of Stones River. The latter settlement would later become known as Jefferson and become the first county seat after the establishment of Rutherford County. The land at the forks of the river was part of a grant of 4800 acres made to Ready Blount by North Carolina. Blount never occupied the land, and later Robert Weakley and Thomas Bedford, Rutherford County's first realtors, came into possession of a part of this grant.

William Atkinson, Owen Edwards, John Etta, Thomas Howell, and Thomas Nelson were among the early settlers on Stewarts Creek. Samual Wilson, who had received a grant of land from North Carolina, was one of the earliest settlers on the west fork of Stones River near where the National Cemetery is located today. He is reported to have planted corn in this vicinity in 1789. It is probable that he, along with Nimrod Menifee, settled in this area about 1800.

A deed recorded in Davidson County and dated 1797 lists Thomas Rucker as acquiring land on Stones River near the location of the present-day Veteran's Facility. This land adjoined that of Isaac Shelby who had been granted 5000 acres of land by North Carolina. In 1801 Rucker and others purchased the Shelby track of land. The deed to this purchase lists Rucker as a citizen of Wilson County, indicating that this section of the county was at that time a part of Wilson County. Some historians think that Rucker may have built the first gristmill in the county.

An early settlement, established around 1800 and later to become Murfreesboro, was that of William Lytle on the west fork of Stones River. William's brother, Archibald Lytle, had received a large grant of land in this vicinity as a result of services in the Revolutionary War but never lived to see his western lands. Capt. William Lytle inherited this grant and moved here with his family in the early 1800s.

The Baird family came to the county around 1803 and settled near Middle Tennessee State University's present location. Baird Lane evidently received its name from this family. Nathaniel Overall, one of the signers of the Cumberland Compact, settled near Lascassas around 1800. Other early settlers in the same area were the Alexander, Doran, and McKnight families.

Absalom Scales has been said to have settled in the vicinity of Eagleville around the turn of the nineteenth century. The Croswaits and Millers were early inhabitants of the Florence community. The Searcy family settled close to what is now Walter Hill, while the Bateys, Beesleys, Blackmans, Bradys, Kings, Masons, and Snells moved west of Murfreesboro. The Butlers, Jenkins, Lillards, and Ransoms located in the Salem community. The

Joneses and Sheltons established themselves near Almaville, while the Campbell family farmed near Murfreesboro.

One of the most interesting early settlers in Rutherford County was Charles Ready, after whom Readyville is named. It is thought that he and his family arrived here about 1800 along with the George Brandon family. Ready purchased a tract of land on the east fork of Stones River from Griffith Rutherford for whom Rutherford County is named. Here Ready built a log cabin and a gristmill, one of the few mills in this area that is still in operation. In the 1820s Ready supervised his slaves in the construction of one of the first brick homes to be built in the county. This home, "The Corners," is still standing today and is now occupied by the Jack Oliver family. Andrew Jackson frequently spent the night there on his way to Washington after he became president, and Gen. Nathan Bedord Forrest and his troops dined there in 1862 while en route to Murfreesboro to attempt the rescue of Confederate prisoners held in the courthouse. The line separating Cannon and Rutherford counties is drawn through the center of the Ready House.

Another early settler of Rutherford County was Peter Jennings, one of more than 5000 black soldiers who fought for the colonies in their war for independence. He was listed in 1830 as having built a house on the corner of Vine and Church streets which was also used for his bakery shop. Recently a tombstone bearing his name was unearthed on the Bradyville Pike; however, the location of his burial place is unknown. There is a marker in the old City Cemetery commemorating his services in the Revolutionary War.

Members of the Murfree family did not come to Rutherford County until after the death of Col. Hardy Murfree in Williamson County in 1806. His land holdings were so extensive that the Tennessee Legislature in 1812 passed an act to provide for an equitable distribution among his seven children. In 1815 Sally Hardy Murfree, who had married Dr. James Maney of Hartford County, North Carolina, took possession of Oaklands Plantation, which she had inherited from her father. The plantation extended from the Old Lascassas Highway on the east to Mem-

orial Boulevard on the west, and from Lytle Street to the vicinity of Northridge Estates. In 1825 Dr. Maney entered into the practice of medicine in Murfreesboro, and during the next three decades, the Maney family led an active social life in the county.

With some notable exceptions, many of the early villages in Rutherford County were named for people who settled there. Halls Hill was so named after Dr. Hall who established a clinic there. Milton, one of the oldest settlements, probably received its name from people who settled there around 1800. Kittrell, settled about 1810, was named for Francis Kittrell and Lascassas is thought to have been named for a Jesuit priest who befriended the Indians. Almaville, Christiana, Florence, Fosterville, and Salem all developed along the railroad line, and most of these communities are named for early settlers. Eagleville was first called Manchester, but in 1836 the name was changed. Legend says an eagle was found dead in nearby hills, thus the residents named the community Eagleville. The name La Vergne means "the green" and was given to the community by a Frenchman, Francois De Rouhlac, who settled there in the early 1800s.

Stones River

Stones River has played a vital role in the lives of Rutherford Countians. In 1795, when the first stream of settlers was moving into the county, only rough trails existed and the river afforded the safest mode of transportation for the early immigrants. Present-day citizens look to the river for their water supply and for recreational activities.

Early in the spring of 1766 a small hunting party veered off course from the Cumberland River into the mouth of a tributary on the east bank some eight or ten miles above the future site of Nashborough. Sitting in the prow of the canoe was Uriah Stone, commander of sorts of a small contingent of hunters which was a part of a larger group under Col. James Smith.

There are reports that Stone followed the contorted stream for nearly 38 miles frequently stopping to hunt and set traps. This 38-mile probe would have led Stone to the fork of the river

where Rutherford County's first seat of justice, Jefferson, was to be located some 37 years later. Stone could have easily been the first white hunter to have stood on the eminence overlooking the confluence of the east and west forks of the river. After one of the party, a Frenchman, stole the canoe and furs and fled into the night, Stone and another hunter found their way back to the Cumberland River and rejoined the party of Colonel Smith. Years later Smith recorded in his journal: "Stone's River is a south branch of the Cumberland and empties into it above Nashville. We first gave it this name in our journal in May, 1767, after one of our fellow travellers, Mr. Uriah Stone, and I'm told that it retains the same name unto this day."

It is recorded that Lt. Thomas Hutchins, British Army engineer and later geographer of the United States, first mapped lower Stones River. It is thought that Lieutenant Hutchins and 35 British troops ascended Stones River a short distance in the armed galley, *H.M.S. Gage* in 1769. There is another account of a pioneer flotilla transporting corn on Stones River and being attacked by Indians some ten miles from the mouth of the river.

There appears to have been considerable navigational activity on Stones River during Rutherford County's early years. Flatboats, barges, keelboats, and rafts carried products down the river to Nashville, and on to New Orleans. Steamboats of this period also brought much-needed items from Ohio and other northern points to Nashville and up Stones River to Rutherford County.

The forks were interspersed with shoals which created narrow lanes of water suitable to power grist- and sawmills, and when the early settlers in what is now Rutherford County discovered that the rich soil would produce abundant crops of corn they began to construct mills all along the river. One of the earliest of these was Cave Mill, owned by Thomas Rucker and established in 1799. A second mill, built in 1803 by Louis Anthony, was located near Jefferson. The Cummings and Smith mills were erected the same year. One historian has said that by 1820 there were at least 20 mills along the river. It was not unusual to find distilleries located nearby.

Eventually, permits for the construction of dams at proposed

mill sites required legislative approval due to conflicts between navigational needs and mill rights. Minutes of the Rutherford County Court for 1816 record that "on petition of John Smith (son of Obidiah Smith) it is ordered by the court here that the said John Smith have leave to build a saw and grist mill at the falls of Overall Creek in Rutherford County."

The early settlers used tree stumps and logs along with dirt and rocks to construct their dams. In Rutherford County, cedar logs were used most often since there was an abundance of that type of timber. The mill building was usually a log structure, one story in height. Later these early log buildings were replaced with ones constructed of stone or brick. The early mill wheels were either overshot or undershot, both driven by running water; later they were replaced by turbines. The grinding process was carried out by utilizing large flat round stones sometimes four feet or more in diameter. Steel rollers eventually replaced the mill stones and proved to be more efficient.

Charles Ready, one of the earliest settlers in Rutherford County, built a mill on Stones River near the present-day boundary between Rutherford and Cannon counties. During the Civil War this mill burned, and afterwards was bought and rebuilt by William B. Hayes. It has passed through a series of ownerships and today is one of the few mills in this area that is operable.

In 1814–1815 John M. Tilford built a grist- and sawmill on the west fork of Stones River near Salem. Later he added a distillery to his operations. Dickinson's Mill was constructed before 1829. All that is left of the McPeak Mill (1878–1912), formerly located on Bradley's Creek north of the Bradley Baptist Church, are two large mill stones. Ransom's Mill was located on the west fork of Stones River near a bridge on Manson's Pike. This was one of the largest gristmills in the county.

Other gristmills of the 1800s include Nice's Mill on the west fork of Stones River, Johns Mill on the Walnut Grove Road, the Halls Hill Mill, Gregory Mill located on Stewarts Creek near Smyrna, and Jones Mill on Stones River also near Smyrna. The abandoned mill dams at the former sites of Nice's and Gregory Mills are today being maintained by the Tennessee Wildlife Re-

sources Agency as barriers to prevent upstream migration of rough lake-type fish.

Elam's Mill, which opened in 1880, was located on the middle fork of Stones River approximately two miles from the Rucker community. It was operated by Dr. Thomas Jefferson Elam, who had served as a physician during the Civil War. According to his granddaughter, Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Dr. Elam lived on his farm off the Manchester Highway after the war, operating the mill and raising race horses. The mill was the undershot type which consisted of a series of paddles attached to struts driven by the force of water flowing under the wheel. This mill was still in operation in the early 1900s.

Bowman's Mill was thought to have been constructed before 1820 on the west fork of Stones River. The Legislature of 1820 made reference to this mill in declaring that "navigation on the west fork of Stones River shall extend to Samuel Bowman's Mill."

The only gristmill existing in Rutherford County today is Brown's Mill, on the east fork of Stones River near Lascassas. It is thought that this mill began operation around 1820. The original owners were J. N. Loughry and John Brown. This early mill was the floating type built over water with no mill race. The mill may have been destroyed during the Civil War; at any rate, a second mill was erected at the same site in 1873. The new mill was operated by Robert Brown and Robert Bruce. In 1884 Edwin Brown, who had purchased Robert Brown's interest, made improvements such as a mill office, engine room, and front porch, and replaced milling machinery. This mill continued to operate under the ownership of some member of the Brown family until 1940 when the Delay family took over the operation. Within two years it changed hands again; this time Wylie and John Herrod took over the ownership. Keele McElroy became the owner in 1956 and continued its operation until 1976. In 1980 the city of Murfreesboro purchased Brown's Mill because the reservoir above the dam could provide the town with additional water supplies during emergencies. Since the city's primary interest was in the dam and reservoir, the old gristmill stands neglected and the years of disuse have taken their toll on the maze of machinery. The

Brown's Mill

Mrs. Sue Ragland with obelisk marking center of state

future of this mill, the only remaining one in Rutherford County, is uncertain although it does possess some historical significance. It was listed in the 1978 National Register of Historic Places.

Much of the Stones River Basin is now the site of the J. Percy Priest Dam and Reservoir. Named in honor of the late Congressman from Tennessee, the dam rises 130 feet above the stream bed of Stones River. The dam is a combination structure of earth and concrete, 2716 feet long with a hydroelectric generating plant. This project has significantly reduced flooding problems in the region and has provided excellent recreational opportunities for Middle Tennesseans. There are areas for camping, swimming, fishing, picnicking, boating, and scenic viewing.

Organization of Rutherford County

On August 10, 1803, some 256 citizens of Davidson and Williamson Counties petitioned the State Legislature, then meeting

Knoxville, to create a new political entity. These petitioners lived principally in the Stewart's Creek and Stones River areas. Nashville and Franklin, the two county seats, were too far removed for convenient travel since roads were practically nonexistent at that time. See Appendix A for a list of those who signed the petition and were still living in Rutherford County seven years later when the census of 1810 was taken.

The Rutherford County petition was favorably received, and the new county was established on October 27, 1803, with organization taking place on January 3, 1804. The southern boundary of Rutherford County originally extended to the Alabama line but was reset at the present location in 1807 when Bedford County was created. The eastern limits of the newly-created county extended about two miles west of Woodbury but were later changed to its present boundary when Cannon County was organized in 1836. The northern limits of the county, with only slight changes, are much the same as outlined in the act of 1803. In 1867 and 1871, acts of the Legislature permitted Eagleville to become a part of Rutherford County. Controversies had arisen between Eagleville citizens and officials in Franklin and Shelbyville relative to the construction of a turnpike from either of these towns to Eagleville. As a result, Eagleville citizens turned their interest to Rutherford County with a similar request for a road, this time connecting Eagleville and Murfreesboro. This turnpike was constructed, and Eagleville citizens petitioned to become a part of Rutherford County, with the Legislature adhering to their wishes.

The newly created county was named in honor of Gen. Griffith Rutherford, a prominent North Carolinian, who served with distinction in the War of Independence. Although as an elderly man Rutherford later moved into adjoining Sumner County, it is doubtful that he ever visited his namesake. It is likely that the name was suggested by Robert Weakley who was in the General Assembly at the time and was a cousin of Rutherford's.

During his lifetime, Gen. Griffith Rutherford had two counties named for him—one in North Carolina and one in Tennessee. In 1945, as part of the sesquicentennial celebration of

Tennessee's admission into the union, the Tennessee Historical Society initiated a movement to have a monument erected in memory of this great general. The society stipulated that the county which would contribute the most towards the cost of the memorial could have the monument erected within its boundaries. Rutherford County was the winner, and in 1946 the monument on the lawn of the Rutherford County Courthouse was unveiled.

Choosing a County Seat

The first meeting of the Rutherford County Court was held in January of 1804 at the home of Thomas Rucker. The Rucker home, a rather imposing frontier edifice for the times, was located near the site of the administration building of the Veteran's Facility on the Lebanon Highway. William Nash, who before the creation of Rutherford County was serving on the Davidson County Court, swore in the seven members of this first court: John Hill, John Howell, Peter LeGrand, Charles Ready, Thomas Rucker, James Sharp, and Col. John Thompson. After the swearing-in ceremony, Nash was reinstated and became a member of the Rutherford Court.

One of the first responsibilities confronting the new court was the appointment of county officials as prior to 1834 that duty was assigned to court members in the various counties. The first holders of the Rutherford County offices were: Samuel McBride, sheriff; Joseph Herndon, county court clerk; William Mitchell, register; John Howell, ranger; and Alexander McCulloch, trustee.

Among other duties of this early court were assessing taxes, approving official papers such as deeds, constructing roads and bridges, registering marks for livestock that ran loose, licensing saloons and taverns, paying bounties for wolf scalps, appropriating money for the poor, and appointing guardians and administrators for estates. The rates fixed in 1804 under which taverns operated were: dinner, 25¢; supper and breakfast, 20¢; corn and oats, 8½¢ per gallon; stabling a horse for 24 hours with

corn and fodder, 33½¢; peach brandy, ½ pint, 12½¢; French brandy and wines, ½ pint, 50¢.

Following the usual procedure, the state governing body appointed a committee to select a site for the county seat. Appointed to this committee in the summer of 1804 were: Frederick Barfield, John Hill, Peter LeGrand, Alexander McKnight, and Mark Mitchell.

At this point two men emerged who may have been Rutherford County's first realtors—Robert Weakley and Thomas Bedford. It is thought that they, anticipating the impending choice of a county seat, had laid out plans for a town on an eminence between the east and west forks of Stones River. The court members and the selection committee evidently were impressed with the location because in 1805 it was chosen as the spot for the new county's seat of justice and was named Jefferson in honor of the president of the United States. Weakley and Bedford, after consigning special lots for the town commons, began to advertise the sale of town lots. Among those who purchased these early lots were: John Bell, Samuel Bell, Joseph Bennett, Theopolus Cannon, William Carlisle, Peter Cook, George Douglass, Daniel Ferguson, Harrison Gilliam, Morton Green, J. A. Lewis, and Mark Mitchell. The first town lot was sold for $29.00.

A brick courthouse, with stocks and whipping posts nearby, was erected in the middle of the public square. Near the courthouse a log building was constructed to serve as the county jail. It has been said that friends of miscreants had only to pry up the bottom logs of the shoddy building to free a prisoner. At times very little effort was made to recapture an escapee.

Main Street, the principal thoroughfare, swept down an incline to the wharves and warehouses at the water's edge. Traders and saloonkeepers hurriedly erected housing along the main street. Soon, taverns, or ordinaries as they were often called, began to appear on the scene.

The new seat of justice grew and prospered. Farm and forest products from throughout the county were carried by flatboat down Stones River to Nashville and marketed. In the absence of highways and railroads the county seat was equivalent to a sea-

port, and those who had built homes and purchased lots in the little town felt that Jefferson had a bright future. Thomas Benton, Felix Grundy, Andrew Jackson, Isaac Shelby, and other distinguished Tennesseans conducted legal business here.

However, the center of population for the county shifted from Jefferson to a more central portion of the county. To accommodate this exodus, a road had been hacked through the forests to Nashville. Wagon trains followed this trail to markets, and the river port of Jefferson suffered a slight decline in activity. At dry periods of the year the water level at Jefferson was so low that river traffic was almost eliminated for all except the smallest of vessels.

Citizens began to demand a county seat more centrally located. Consequently, in 1811, the General Assembly appointed a committee to select another site. This committee, composed of James Armstrong, Jesse Brashear, Owen Edwards, Hans Hamilton, Charles Ready, Hugh Robinson, and John Thompson, Sr. seriously considered four locations being offered as likely sites. These were: the Rucker property near the present Veteran's Hospital, the Charles Ready land on the east fork of Stones River now on the line between Rutherford and Cannon counties, the Black Fox Springs area on the Bradyville Pike, and the Capt. William Lytle grant in a more centralized location on the west fork of Stones River. Intense competition for the county seat developed as Ready, Rucker, and Lytle each sought to interest the selection committee in his respective property. It was evident that there was some sentiment regarding the Black Fox Spring area because of the part it had played in the early history of the county. The Rucker home, where the first court meeting had been held, obtained some favorable consideration. After much maneuvering and heated negotiations, however, the committee, by a vote of four to three, accepted the land offered by Capt. William Lytle.

The Lytle donation, consisting of sixty acres, was situated on a slight elevation only a mile or so from the Lytle home. Captain Lytle specified that one lot on the public square be deeded to him; consequently, he was given a lot on the southeastern corner of the square. Lytle's surveyor, Hugh Robinson, laid out addi-

tional lots from Lytle's own property, and no doubt the financial returns on these lots were considerable. Lytle's philanthropic spirit was evidenced when he deeded a lot on Vine Street to the elders of the Presbyterian Church. He also deeded a large parcel of land on Maple Street to be used for educational purposes. Later, the Murfreesboro Female Academy was located on this lot, and today it is occupied by the offices of the Murfreesboro City School System.

The General Assembly on October 17, 1811, designated the new county seat as Cannonsburgh, honoring a rising young public figure, Newton Cannon of Williamson County, who at the time represented Rutherford along with other counties as senator in the General Assembly (1811–1813). Years later Cannon was to become governor of the state of Tennessee.

On November 29, 1811, the Legislature rescinded its action and renamed the county seat Murfreesborough (later Murfreesboro). It is believed that the change of names was made at the behest of Capt. William Lytle who wished to honor his close friend Col. Hardy Murfree who had recently died in Williamson County.

Work began immediately on the courthouse, jail, whipping posts, and stocks. By 1813 the courthouse was completed and ready for occupancy. No pictures or descriptions of this first building exist. In 1817 Murfreesboro received incorporation status from the Legislature meeting in Knoxville. This same year court members authorized extensive renovations and repairs. From 1819 to 1822, when it burned, this first courthouse served as the capitol building for the state of Tennessee. After the fire of 1822 work started immediately on a second courthouse which served the county until the present one was constructed in 1859.

After incorporation, the city of Murfreesboro organized its government. From 1817 until 1910 the town's governing body was designated the Board of Aldermen, with aldermen selecting one member of the group to serve a one-year term as mayor. It was not until 1931, when the present charter was granted, that the mayor was elected at large for a four-year term. Joshua Haskell served as the first mayor and the first aldermen were William Barfield, Burrell Gannaway, Charles Niles, George A. Sublett,

Nicholas Tilford, and Thomas G. Watkins. Burrell Gannaway became the town's first treasurer; and William Ledbetter, the recorder. Benjamin Blankenship served as the first constable. See Appendix B for a list of Murfreesboro's mayors.

Murfreesboro's First Surveyor

Hugh Robinson, Murfreesboro's first surveyor, was a member of the committee appointed by the Tennessee General Assembly to select a more centrally located site for the Rutherford County seat. Following the selection of Murfreesboro, Robinson was chosen to survey the town lots of the new site.

Hugh Robinson was the son of Henry Robinson and Elizabeth Archibald of Maryland. He was born on October 8, 1769, after his father and mother had moved to Rowan County, North Carolina. It is not known exactly when Hugh Robinson and his wife, Hannah Barr, came to the Cumberland settlements. However, it is known that in 1804 he and his family were residents of Rutherford County and he was an appointed member of the committee to select a county seat.

Sometime after the founding of Murfreesboro, according to family members, Robinson was riding in the vicinity of the present village of Bradyville when he came upon a spring of the clearest and purest water he had ever seen. Upon examination, he discovered that the spring contained three varities of water—limestone, sulphur, and free stone. He was so impressed with the beautiful surroundings that he decided to make it his permanent home. He acquired the land, built a house and mill, and moved his family there. Here he lived until his death in May of 1848 at the age of 79.

Captain William Lytle

William Lytle, donor of the sixty acres of land upon which Murfreesboro was established, was probably born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, February 17, 1755. He was the son of Robert and Sarah Mebane Lytle. Robert's father was an Irish immigrant who had come to America in 1720 and settled in Pennsylvania. As did many other Scotch-Irish settlers of this period, the Lytle family

migrated to Virginia and from there into North Carolina. Colonial records indicate that Robert served as a justice of peace in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Very little is known of William Lytle until he entered the military as a lieutenant in the Sixth North Carolina Regiment in April of 1776. Along with his brother, Archibald, William fought with General Washington at Germantown in 1777. In 1779 William Lytle was promoted to the rank of captain and in January of 1781 was transferred to the 21st Regiment. Shortly thereafter he was transferred to the Fourth Regiment where he served under his brother, Lt. Col. Archibald Lytle, until the close of the war.

Archibald Lytle was given large grants of land in what is now Tennessee as payment for his services in the revolutionary war. One of these grants included 4620 acres of land on the west fork of Stones River. Another grant of 2560 acres was located near the Harpeth River. Archibald died near the turn of the century. Since he was a bachelor with no living relatives other than his brother, William, it was Captain Lytle's good fortune to inherit these large tracts of western lands.

In 1798 William Lytle began to dispose of his North Carolina property and to make plans to move to what is now Murfreesboro, Tennessee. At first, he built a log cabin with nearby grist- and sawmills. Later he added a cotton gin and warehouses. In 1810 he began construction of a mansion near Lytle Creek to the rear of where Haynes Brothers Supply Company is located today. Brick for the home was produced in a kiln on his property. The paneling and cabinet work came from Nashville by water down the Cumberland to Stones River and thence to Jefferson. Captain Lytle and his wife, Nancy Taylor from Baltimore, Maryland, are reported to have lavishly entertained the 1811 selection committee in their new home. When Lytle died September 4, 1829, he was buried in a small family plot near the mansion. His wife, Nancy, is buried beside him. Today, through the efforts of Bob Ragland and other members of the Sons of the American Revolution, the preservation of this historical burial site is assured.

In addition to the small creek that bears Lytle's name, one of the local DAR chapters and a street in Murfreesboro are named

in his honor. Rutherford County families related to the Lytles include the Cannons, Carneys, Casons, Hendersons, Jordans, Ledbetters, Mitchells, and Pattersons. In 1967, as part of the sesquicentennial activities connected with the founding of Murfreesboro, the grave sites were cleared and a brief ceremony was held in honor of the "forgotten donor," Capt. William Lytle.

Colonel Hardy Murfree

Col. Hardy Murfree, for whom Murfreesboro was named, was born in Hertford County, North Carolina, in 1752. He was the son of William and Mary Moore Murfree for whom the town of Murfreesboro, North Carolina, was named. Hardy Murfree was married on February 17, 1780, to Sarah Brickell and they have seven children. Colonel Murfree was in the colonial army throughout the Revolution and served under General Washington at Brandywine, Germantown, and Stony Point.

As compensation for his services in the revolutionary war, Hardy Murfree was given large grants of western lands in the vicinity of Franklin and Murfreesboro. His two sons and some of his daughters left North Carolina and moved to Franklin and Columbia, Tennessee. In 1802 Colonel Hardy Murfree's wife died and was buried in North Carolina. Murfree left his native state in 1806 and came to the home of his son in Franklin, with plans to build a home seven miles from there. Only two rooms and a passageway were completed when Murfree was stricken with an illness which resulted in his death on April 6, 1809. He was buried in a plot which later became a family cemetery. His death was sudden and he left no will so in accordance with the law at that time, his estate was administered by the Legislature. His holdings near Franklin went to his eldest son, and other heirs inherited land in the vicinity of Murfreesboro. One of his daughters, Mrs. Sally Maney, inherited the antebellum home of Oaklands and the land nearby.

Jefferson

The choice of Murfreesboro as the county seat did not signal the end of historical significance for the little town at the conflu-

ence of the east and west forks of Stones River. The river port of Jefferson continued to be a center of waterborne commerce and trade, and in the early 1800s many Rutherford Countians still came by Jefferson to make use of the dirt road leading to Nashville. Soon flatboats were to be joined by barges, keelboats, and rafts and water transportation along Stones River was to retain its importance well beyond the 1850s.

Following the treaty between the United States and Spain in 1792 the Mississippi River was opened for trade, and commerce between the Cumberland Basin and New Orleans increased rapidly. Flatboats from Jefferson with cargoes of corn, tobacco, whiskey, hides, etc. found their way to markets in New Orleans and Nashville. Voyages to New Orleans took months to complete, and since the flatboat was essentially a downstream vessel the owners upon arrival in New Orleans broke up the boats and sold the logs. Usually, the return trip was on foot by way of Natchez Trace.

William Nash, of Jefferson, was one of the early traders who sent flatboats to the New Orleans markets. In 1803 he opened a store in Jefferson; among the many articles which he made available to his customers were gunpowder, glass, nails, dry goods, coffee, and whiskey. Much of the goods sold by these early traders came down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh. Another flatboat owner of Jefferson was Mark Mitchell who, on May 1, 1805, dispatched to New Orleans two flatboats, one carrying 1000 bushels of corn and the other laden with 1100 bushels of corn.

With the increase of trade, Jefferson became an inspection center for cotton, meat, and other products. Listed among the early court-appointed inspection officials were: William Searcy, George Simpson, and William A. Sublett.

The flatboat was essentially a downstream vessel; with the appearance of the keelboat river transportation became a two-way operation. Commerce increased considerably and many keelboats were moored and constructed at Jefferson. The average keelboat was from 40 to 80 feet long and from seven to ten feet wide. The vessel was pointed at both ends and the midsection was usually covered. The crew stood on a cleated walkway that ran around the gunwales while poling the boat upstream.

Steering was done by a long oar that pivoted at the stern. The average capacity of a keelboat was from 15 to 30 tons.

Mill owners constructed dams along Stones River and its tributaries, leading to conflict between them and boat operators. On November 13, 1801, the State Legislature declared Stones River navigable from its mouth to the west fork. Further legislation was passed on July 2, 1820, which declared: "The navigation of Stone's River shall extend from its junction with the east fork at Jefferson up as high as Samuel Bowman's Mill, free from obstruction for the passage of boats, canoes, and every kind of water craft." The emergence of navigation legislation which required mill owners to install locks or bypass canals at mill sites infuriated the mill operators, and dissension between the two groups increased. In 1825 the Rutherford County Court appointed overseers to inspect the river for obstructions and directed that such obstructions be removed under penalty of law. As late as 1853, the General Assembly was still in the process of passing navigation legislation regarding Stones River. One such act authorized a lottery whose proceeds were to be used to remove obstructions from the river.

In 1824, Constant Hardeman, a boat-builder at Jefferson, constructed a steamboat hull and floated it downstream to Nashville where machinery was installed. So far as is known, this is the only evidence of steamboat traffic on Stones River. In all probability the stream was too shallow to accommodate this kind of vessel. However, a lucrative log rafting business lay ahead for the former county seat. There were over 160 acres of cedar glades in Rutherford County, through which Stones River flowed. By 1840 the rafting of cedar logs had become the most prevalent type of river commerce at Jefferson, and the Stones River area became one of the main outlets for the red cedar of Middle Tennessee. Large quantities of the cedar timber went to Louisiana, Indiana, and Ohio; some of the finest homes in Cincinnati were furnished with cedar from the Stones River Basin. Uses for the cedar timber included fence posts, buckets, churns, and pencil slats. This commerce in red cedar lasted well into the 1880s.

In the early 1900s the town of Jefferson entered another phase

of activity—that of a summer resort. The nearby sulphur springs and the opportunities for water recreation made Jefferson a mecca for summer vacationers who were desirous of avoiding the summer heat of the town houses. People from Murfreesboro, Nashville, and even farther away brought their families to this restful spot for the medicinal properties of the springs as well as for recreation and relaxation. Mrs. John Valley White of Murfreesboro built several cottages for rent or sale along the river at Jefferson. A bridge was constructed across the river, and on the nearby bluffs a dance hall was erected. There was a store, a bowling alley, and a large bathhouse. Near the bridge there was a chute for those who enjoyed sliding down into the cool water. Across the road from the north end of the bridge was a park for camping, ball games, croquet, and picnicking. A two-story hotel was erected on the south side of the river, and musicians from Nashville were engaged to come there every Saturday night to provide entertainment.

Soon automobiles became less of a rarity; paved roads appeared; and Daytona Beach was only a day or so away. Once again Jefferson faded into the background—but not for long. The opening of Sewart Air Force Base at Smyrna at the beginning of World War II and the establishment of Rutherford County as a maneuver area caused a shortage of housing for air force families. The rustic cabins at Jefferson, that had once housed vacationers, came alive with the bustle and activity of military families.

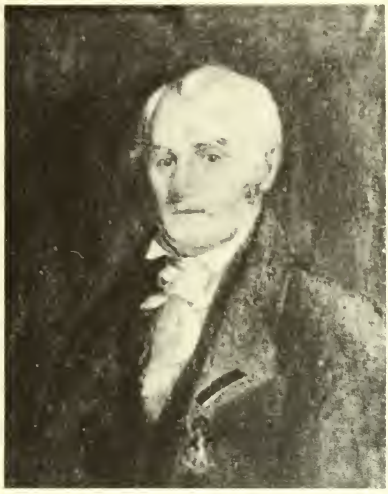
In 1963 the image of Jefferson changed again. During that year construction of the Stewart's Ferry Reservoir began. The project was completed by 1968, and the name was changed to J. Percy Priest Reservoir in honor of the late congressman from Tennessee. The impounded waters from the dam overflowed much of the land that once surrounded the little town of Jefferson. The only remaining vestige of the town is a lonely deserted eminence where the town commons once stood.

The Early 1800s

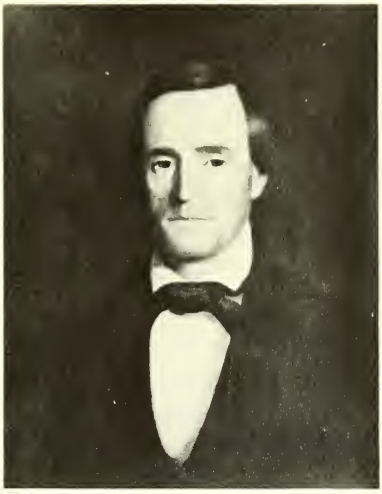
During the early 1800s Rutherford County achieved a degree of prominence equalled by few Tennessee counties. The population and economy of the county expanded rapidly. The number of inhabitants rose from 10,265 when the first census was taken in 1810 to 26,134 by 1830 at which time Rutherford ranked fifth among the counties of the state.

All able-bodied men were required to enlist in one of the companies of the militia, the first of which was organized in the county in 1804. The Rutherford County court records for that year listed the companies of the militia and the justices to whom they were assigned. The justices served as the civilian authority for the county militia much as the governor of Tennessee today exercises control over the National Guard. Capt. John Smith's company was assigned to Justice John Hill, Capt. John John's Company to W. W. Searcy, Capt. O. M. Venge's company to William Smith, and Capt. Alexander McKnight's company to Charles Ready. As the population of the county increased from year to year, the number of companies of militia increased. By 1833 there were 36 such companies in Rutherford County. Muster grounds were established at various locations throughout the county where the militia gathered for military training while their families picnicked. Black Fox Springs was a favorite area. Eventually, these military divisions led to the formation of civil districts such as are found in Rutherford County today.

Favorable climate, industrious pioneers, and good farm land led to the rapid growth of the county's economy. The output of the farms during these early years included corn, tobacco, cotton, wheat, rye, pork, and dairy products. In 1810 there were 1080 heads of families within the county with some 400 of them owning slaves—some as many as 20–40 slaves. By 1840 Rutherford County was producing about 3,000,000 bushels of corn annually, ranking near the top of corn-producing counties in the entire United States. William Lytle and James Rucker had erected cotton gins in the county by the early 1800s, and cotton was fast becoming one of the major crops.



Capt. William Lytle



Henderson King Yoakum

Between 1820 and 1830 farmers in the county had become interested in raising thoroughbred horses and in constructing race tracks. One of the best-known of these tracks was the one located on Major Bradley's farm, Hurricane Hill, not far from Murfreesboro. It has been said that during the time that Murfreesboro served as the capital of the state of Tennessee Andrew Jackson won and lost small fortunes at this track. It has been rumored that the enmity that existed between Jackson and Newton Cannon grew out of a wager which resulted in Cannon losing all of his slaves.

During the time that the citizens of Rutherford County were absorbed in building the newly-designated county seat, a second conflict between Great Britain and the United States was in the making—the War of 1812. While Rutherford County furnished Gen. Andrew Jackson with a large quantity of volunteer troops during the conflict, the exact number is not known. It is known that Capt. George Barne's company of Col. John Coffee's regiment listed about 115 Rutherford County men. At least two Rutherford Countians lost their lives during the conflict—Col. James Henderson was killed during a skirmish near New Or-

leans, and Andrew M. Alexander was a casualty at the Battle of New Orleans. High ranking officers from Rutherford County who fought with Jackson during the war were: Brig-Gen. John Coffee, Lt. Col. Robert Henry Dyer, and Maj. John H. Gibson. Coffee, who lived about two miles from Jefferson, had, prior to his involvement in the War of 1812, taken part in campaigns against the Creek Indians. His command took an active part in the decisive Battle of Horseshoe Bend which resulted in the submission of the Creeks.

When the British landed on the Gulf Coast the state of Tennessee was called upon to furnish 2500 men, and General Jackson requested that all of these men be placed under the command of General Coffee. The Tennessee troops were to rendevous at Fayetteville and proceed from there to Mobile, Alabama. An interesting and romantic episode connected with the assembling of the forces occurred in Rutherford County when two young men on their way to join Jackson's forces decided to rest overnight in the county. Springfield, the home of Gen. John Smith, was pointed out to them as a likely place where they might find lodging. These two young men were brothers—Overton Washington Crockett and Fontaine Posey Crockett. General Smith provided a delightful meal for them and invited them to spend the night. His two daughters, Evalina and Julia, so impressed the two young soldiers that they declared their intentions of stopping at Springfield on their return from New Orleans. Early in the spring of 1815 they did return—this time to remain in Rutherford County. On November 15, 1815, Evalina and Overton Crockett were married at Springfield, and five years later Julia and Fontaine Crockett were married at the same spot. This historic old home has been the scene of many weddings since then but none with the romantic and historic interest of those of General Smith's daughters.

On October 5, 1814, Coffee and his troops left Fayetteville to join Jackson at Mobile, Alabama. He arrived there with his men on December 20, 1814, just in time for the bloody battle of December 23. Lieutenant Gibson was wounded in this battle, but he recovered and was able to join Coffee and Dyer in partici-

pating in the January 8, 1815, victory over the British troops at New Orleans.

In 1818 Colonels Dyer and Gibson fought again under the command of General Jackson—this time against the Seminole Indians in Florida. As a result of the valor of these Rutherford County men three Tennessee counties have been named in their honor—Coffee, Dyer, and Gibson.

By 1815 some progress had been made in the county in road building, banking, medical services, constructing schools and churches, and the printing of a local newspaper. Even the court members were interested in improving the cleanliness of the courthouse. Minutes of that period indicate that Blackman Coleman, for the sum of $25 per year, was ordered to keep the building clean. A road connecting Murfreesboro with Nashville by way of Jefferson had been opened up. Other roads constructed in the county for the most part connected communities with schools, churches, stores, and gristmills. Although all able-bodied men were required to work these roads, the quality of the thoroughfares was poor, and often they were almost impassable.

The first bank opened in Rutherford County in 1817. The legislative act that established the bank designated that it be called the Murfreesboro Tennessee Bank. The directors were: William Barfield, Samuel Black, Joel Childress, John Clapper, Elisha Clark, John Fisher, Edward Jones, Benjamin McCulloch, John Smith, and Nicholas Tilford. Benjamin McCulloch served as president and Samuel Black as cashier. The Panic of 1819 led to the closing of the bank some five or six years later.

Murfreesboro had its first newspaper in 1814—*The Courier* published by G. A. and A. C. Sublett. This paper was printed on a Franklin-style press housed in an office on the corner of Vine and South Maple. The original paper had four pages—the first page was given to advertisements of the times regarding stores, taverns, medicine, etc.; editorials appeared on the second page; pages three and four carried local, state, and national news items. This paper was to gain much prestige during the time that Murfreesboro served as the capital of the state, and it continued publication until 1831.

An outstanding social event of 1818 was the marriage of John Bell of Nashville and Miss Sally Dickinson, granddaughter of Col. Hardy Murfree. David Dickinson, Salley's father, was a brilliant Murfreesboro lawyer and statesman. He was to represent Rutherford County in 1831 in the Tennessee General Assembly and in 1833 was to be elected to the Twenty-eighth Congress of the United States. John Bell, the groom, was an influential political leader in Tennessee, having been elected to the state senate when he was only 20 years of age. Later he was elected to the United States House of Representatives, in 1834 he became speaker of that body, and in 1860 he was the Constitutional Union Party's candidate for president.

The early settlers of Rutherford County depended on home remedies and superstitious practices for the treatment of diseases. Often they carried buckeyes in their pockets or wore fetishes around their necks in hopes of warding off diseases. On September 3, 1813, when a black was hanged in Murfreesboro for housebreaking, pieces of the rope were passed out as a talisman against sickness. Not until 1889 were there legal requirements in Tennessee for licensing medical practitioners; nevertheless, in the early 1800s the Murfreesboro area did have a few capable physicians. One was Dr. Swepson Sims who practiced medicine in the Salem and Barfield communities. Dr. James Landon Armstrong, who had studied under the eminent Dr. Dudley of Lexington, Kentucky, practiced medicine in Murfreesboro from 1809. Dr. Armstrong served as a surgeon in the War of 1812 and later took an active role in combating cholera in Murfreesboro in the 1830s. Perhaps the most outstanding early practitioner was Dr. Wilson Yandall who trained several Rutherford County physicians. Around 1817 Dr. William R. Rucker began the practice of medicine in the county, and was followed by Dr. James Maney.

Many outstanding and prominent political figures were associated with Murfreesboro and Rutherford County during the early 1800s. This was especially true during, and for some time following, the years when Murfreesboro served as the capital of the state (1819–1825). At this time several towns in Middle Ten-

nessee were making efforts to be named the capital of the state. Among these were Nashville, Columbia, Clarksville, Carthage, Franklin, and Murfreesboro. At this time Rutherford County was one of the leading counties in the state from an economic and political standpoint, and influential men, either directly or indirectly connected with the county, aided in bringing the capital to Murfreesboro. These politicians included Col. Robert Weakley, Thomas Bedford of Jefferson, a candidate for governor in 1815, and Col. Charles Ready, Jr. Two of the most prominent politicians with connections to Rutherford County at this time were James K. Polk, who was to marry Sarah Childress of Murfreesboro in 1822, and John Bell, who married Sally Dickinson of Murfreesboro in 1818. Through the efforts of these and other friends, the General Assembly in Knoxville in 1817 adopted a resolution naming Murfreesboro the capital. Three East Tennessee Senators comprised the sole opposition to this measure, and in the lower house an unsuccessful attempt was made to substitute Carthage for Murfreesboro.

The population of Murfreesboro increased rapidly during this period due to the influx of legislative families, petitioners, and other followers who gravitated to the capital. There were 14 saloons and four hotels around the public square which at that time, as one historian described it, had many gaps, open fields, and dusty walkways. The General Assembly held its sessions in the Rutherford County courthouse until it burned in 1822. Following this unfortunate incident the Legislature met in the Presbyterian Church on East Vine Street. James K. Polk, who as a student had attended Bradley Academy in Murfreesboro, served as clerk of the Senate for a time during these capital years; Sam Houston was adjutant-general; and David Crockett was a member of the Legislature. Andrew Jackson was a frequent visitor in Murfreesboro while the Legislature was in session. At one time while the Assembly was meeting in Murfreesboro, swords were presented to General Jackson for his gallantry in the War of 1812. During one of the legislative sessions, Jackson rode on horseback from his home at the Hermitage to appear before the Assembly and announce his candidacy for the United States Senate.

The Assembly left Murfreesboro in 1826, never to return, although citizens and friends of Rutherford County made an effort in 1840 to regain the state seat of government. In fact, a resolution, adopted by both houses of the Legislature in 1840, stipulated that the capital be moved from Nashville to Murfreesboro. However, Nashville citizens refused to concede defeat. When the appropriation bill finally came before the Senate an amendment was added designating $100 be appropriated for moving the records from Nashville to Murfreesboro. By the time that the amendment reached the House, that body of the legislature added another amendment declaring Nashville to be the capital of the state. Some placed the blame for this change of mind on Polk, who as governor of the state at the time, had expressed a reluctance to move his offices away from Nashville. Another rumor revealed that the house would have been willing to make Murfreesboro the capital had the Rutherford County court agreed to pay the $100 necessary to transfer the records.

Although Murfreesboro's preeminence was somewhat subdued by the loss of the state capital in 1826, there were periods of political resurgence. In 1828 a great reception and celebration was held in Murfreesboro to honor Andrew Jackson in his bid for the office of president of the United States. By this time the Sublett brothers had organized another newspaper—the short-lived *Vidette News* whose sole purpose was to help elect Jackson to the presidency. While Van Buren was president, he visited Rutherford County and was entertained at the Ready home and at a gala gathering in Murfreesboro. In 1838 James K. Polk was honored at a dinner held in Murfreesboro at which time he announced his candidacy for the governor's office. By now, the Sublett brothers had founded their third newspaper, *The Weekly Times*, which supported the Democratic Party.

During the 1830s many of the county's most prominent citizens aligned themselves with the Whig Party, and for several years to come they were to take an active part in the gubernatorial clashes between Whigs and Democrats. The Whig Party leaned toward the aristocratic concept of life, favored internal improvements, and the United States Bank. Therefore many wealthy

Rutherford County residents favored these policies, and in presidential and gubernatorial campaigns they took a stand with the Whig Party.

In 1830 the population of Rutherford County was 26,134; by 1840 it had declined to 24,289. This was due in part to the organization of Cannon County in 1836, which took away much of the eastern part of Rutherford. At this time Murfreesboro had a population of 786. the *Tennessee Gazette* in 1834 gave this description of the town:

> It is well laid out and handsomely situated near the West Branch of Stone's River, surrounded by a body of rich farming land under a high stage of cultivation. It has an Academy and two schools, three churches, four clergymen, ten lawyers, four physicians, a printing office, two cotton gins, one carding machine, one gristmill, four blacksmiths, four bricklayers, three hatters, one painter, three saddlers, five shoemakers, one silversmith, four tailors, one tinner, two taverns, and ten or twelve stores.

One of the outstanding lawyers and statesmen of this early period was Judge James C. Mitchell, who, as a representative of Rhea County, attended the general assembly while it met in Murfreesboro, and formed such an attachment for the county and its people that six years later he moved to Murfreesboro and later he became a circuit judge. One historian described him as "more feared than loved by lawyers of his circuit."

Col. Charles Ready, Jr., was one of the rising young politicans in Rutherford County in the 1830s. He was born in Readyville on December 22, 1802, attended the common schools of the county, and after studying law, began his practice in Murfreesboro. In 1835 he was elected to represent his home county in the lower house of the state Legislature. In 1853 he was elected on the Whig ticket as a representative to the Thirty-third Congress of the United States. He served for three consecutive terms during the stormy period preceding the Civil War. Colonel Ready's Murfreesboro home was located on the east corner of the public square at the site of the present-day Commerce Union Bank Park area. The house, with its ornamental gardens facing the public

square, was located so that it provided a firsthand view of many of the military happenings that took place near the courthouse during the Civil War. Colonel Ready continued to practice law in Rutherford County until his death in 1878.

Maj. Joseph Dickson, a Revolutionary War soldier who took part in the Battle of King's Mountain, came to Rutherford County in the early 1800s. He served as speaker of the lower house of the State Legislature from 1809 to 1811. A monument, erected in memory of this eminent soldier and statesman, rests in the Old City Cemetery on East Vine Street near the spot formerly occupied by the First Presbyterian Church of which he was a charter member.

Another distinguished statesman of the county was Parry Humphreys who was the first solicitor of the county when it was organized in 1804. Between 1805 and 1818 he served in the lower house of the State Legislature, on the Tennessee Supreme Court, and as a member of the lower house of the United States Congress. From 1818 to 1836 he served as judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

One of the most eloquent of the county's statesmen was William Haskell, the son of Joshua Haskell, Murfreesboro's first mayor. William Haskell fought in the Seminole War, and in 1845 he enlisted in the army, serving as colonel in the Second Tennessee Regiment of Infantry in the Mexican War. During the Whig era he made frequent addresses in support of the party. Great crowds gathered to hear him, and because of his eloquence he became known as one of Tennessee's great orators of that period.

An effort to establish a system of waterworks for Murfreesboro's was made in 1833. The plan provided for bringing water from Sand Springs in large tubs to the top of Capitol Hill by means of a wooden railway powered by horses. From Capitol Hill, the water was to go through cedar tubes to an air-tight tank in the courthouse yard and from there by hydrants to businesses. The plant, known as Rose Waterworks, was soon abandoned. Years later, however, when authorities were excavating for the present water system, some of the old cedar tubes were unearthed, many of them still in a good state of preservation.

In 1831 the General Assembly granted a charter for the construction of a turnpike from Nashville to Murfreesboro and on to Shelbyville. However, this road was not completed until 1842. The construction of the turnpike was jointly subsidized by the state and by citizens who purchased stock in the enterprise. Toll gates were erected every five miles, and as soon as receipts were sufficient to defray the cost of the turnpike the tolls were to be lifted. During the 1850s there were 22 turnpike companies chartered by the state for operation in Rutherford County, and as construction of roads within the county developed the population of the smaller communities such as Fosterville, Smyrna, La Vergne, Lascassas, Milton, Eagleville, Christiana, and Salem grew.

The Todd and Company Stage, which ran between Nashville and Murfreesboro, began operation in 1832. Headquarters for this stage company, owned by Jackson Todd, were located in the Keystone Hotel on the north corner of the Murfreesboro Public Square. Gregory Inn, a way station near Smyrna, was a favorite stopping place for travelers since its rooms were commodious and the food excellent. About this time W. B. Garrett opened the first carriage manufacturing plant in the county.

Asiatic cholera struck Murfreesboro in 1832. Many of the citizens left town, going to the mountains to avoid the dreaded disease. For a short time the spread of the illness was somewhat abated. However, in 1835, it struck once again—this time in a more malignant form. People abandoned their homes in large numbers; businesses were closed; and plans were made for nurses and relief committees. The death list included some of the most prominent citizens of the county, G. S. Cain, a leading business man; Gen. William Brady, a prominent lawyer; and Dr. A. Hartwell who had ministered to the victims of the disease.

The high point of transportation for Rutherford County was reached on July 4, 1851, when the first railroad car rolled into Murfreesboro. The Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad had been completed to this point, and the appearance of this first train, loaded with some 1500 passengers, resulted in one of the town's greatest celebrations.

Mexican War

After Mexico won her independence from Spain in 1821 there was no longer any threat from European powers, and many American citizens began to move to Texas and to settle there. By 1830, Mexican authorities had become alarmed at the large numbers of Americans who had moved into their territory. Before long conflicts arose between the two groups. Among the Tennesseans who had migrated to Texas were Sam Houston and David Crockett. By 1833 war had broken out between the American settlers and the Mexican government, and when word reached Tennessee in 1835 that their beloved David Crockett, along with other defenders at the Alamo, had been killed Tennessee soldiers were ready immediately to go to Texas to avenge their deaths. Two companies were raised in Rutherford County—the Mustard Men and the Murfreesboro Sentinels, each numbering 64 men. Capt. J. W. Jetton commanded the Mustard Men, and Capt. Henderson King Yoakum, the Sentinels.

After Texas gained her independence from Mexico in 1836, only a few years elapsed before steps were being taken to annex Texas as a part of the United States. After the 1844 presidential election of James K. Polk, who had favored annexation, Texas was soon accepted into the Union. However, a dispute between the United States and Mexico over the southern boundary of Texas led to war between the two countries, and once again the call went out for volunteers. Tennessee was called upon to furnish 2800 men, and 30,000 volunteered, resulting in Tennessee being given the nickname the "Volunteer State." Two full companies were raised in Rutherford County but the war was soon over and they saw little or no service.

A unique Rutherford County personality connected with both the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican War was Henderson King Yoakum—a West Point graduate, a politician, lawyer, historian, and mayor of Murfreesboro for six years.

One of Henderson Yoakum's ancestors, Valentine Yoakum, left New York with his family to settle in Virginia. After their arrival in Virginia, a band of Indians attacked them, killing all

members of the family except one son, George. The strong young man used an iron skillet to kill three of his attackers before making his escape. At the age of 25, George married Margaret Vanbebber, and among their children was George II who moved with his family to Powell's Valley in Claiborne County, Tennessee around 1790.

Henderson King Yoakum, the oldest son of George and Margaret Yoakum, was born in Powell's Valley on September 6, 1810. At the age of 17, he was appointed to the West Point Military Academy, graduating from that institution in 1832. He married Eveline Cannon in 1833, and soon after his marriage he and his bride moved to Murfreesboro. He became associated with the law office of Judge James Mitchell as a student and was soon admitted to the bar. He saw service in both the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican War and was a staunch supporter for the annexation of Texas to the Union.

Following his military service in the Texas War for Independence, he returned to Murfreesboro where he was elected as mayor of the town, serving in this capacity for six years. He was a loyal supporter of Jackson, Van Buren, and James K. Polk. Taking his family with him in October of 1845, he left to make his home in Texas. When the Mexican War erupted, he took an active part in the conflict and soon rose to the rank of colonel. At the close of the war, he settled with his family in Huntsville, Texas, where he resumed the practice of law after being admitted to the Texas bar. Henderson Yoakum became a close friend and legal advisor of Sam Houston's. At one time he defended Mrs. Houston in an assault and battery charge in which he gained a mistrial. Yoakum is probably best known for his two-volume history of the state of Texas for which Houston was said to have given him much of the information. In the fall of 1856 Yoakum went to Houston to deliver a Masonic address. There he became ill with pneumonia and died at the age of 46. When Sam Houston lay dying in July of 1863 he requested that his body be buried alongside his good friend, Henderson Yoakum. Today in Oakland Cemetery in Huntsville, Texas, two marble shafts rise side

by side marking the burial grounds of Sam Houston and Henderson King Yoakum.

Education

Rutherford County came into being just eight years after Tennessee's entrance into the Union. Interest in education took a back seat to practical matters, such as the construction of homes, mills, and public buildings, the organization of a local government and a militia, and the dispensation of justice.

The beginning of education in Rutherford County came about as a result of the Congressional Land Grant of 1806. This act of Congress led the general assembly of Tennessee to pass legislation establishing an academy in each of the Tennessee counties. During the same year the legislature appointed William P. Anderson, John Bedford, Joseph Dixon, Robert Smith, and John Thompson, Sr., of Rutherford County as trustees of the Bradley Academy which was to open soon in Murfreesboro. This academy was to be supported mainly from tution charges, gifts, donations, and authorized lotteries. For some years the Academy existed on paper; but in 1811 it opened its doors, and for all practical purposes Murfreesboro had a school before it had a courthouse. The Academy was located on acreage donated by John Bradley, a Revolutionary War officer, and the school received its name in deference to this benefactor.

The first headmaster of Bradley Academy was Samuel P. Black. This eminent educator was born in Guilford County, North Carolina. His parents had come to America from North Ireland and were staunch Presbyterians. At the age of 19 Samuel Black opened a classical school near Abingdon, Virginia. After teaching there for a short while, Black was offered a professorship at the University of Georgia in Athens. He did not remain there long, coming to Nashville in 1798 to accept a teaching position at the old Cumberland College. Later, he moved to Sumner County where he opened Montpelier Academy near the home of Col. Elmore Douglas.

In 1805 he married Mrs. Fannie Sanders, a young widow with one child, Alexander, who died in his infancy. After his mar-

riage Samuel Black left teaching and moved his family to Gallatin where he became a merchant. He made an unfortunate venture into the building of flatboats and the shipping of produce to New Orleans, and lost all that he had saved during his teaching years. He was forced back to his former profession, and in 1810 he came with his family to Rutherford County where he soon became affiliated with Bradley Academy. He taught at this school for 26 years until his death in 1838. His body is buried in the Black Cemetery near Walter Hill about three miles from Murfreesboro.

Bradley Academy became well-known throughout Middle Tennessee during this period. The curriculum included English, grammar, Latin, Greek, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, natural and moral philosophy, astronomy, logic, belles-lettres, and other useful and ornamental branches of literature. Students boarded in or out of town with genteel families on reasonable terms. Parents of students enrolled in the academy were expected to assist in furnishing firewood. Dr. Robert Henderson traveled overland from Maury County and began teaching at the institution. He was soon followed by 17-year-old James K. Polk who enrolled as a student at the academy. Samuel Black numbered among his scholars some of the ablest men of Tennessee, including Polk and John Bell. It does not appear that Bell and Polk attended the academy at the same time since Polk was two years older than Bell. At any rate, Samuel Black lived to see these two men represent adjoining districts of Tennessee in the United States House of Representatives. Both men were later nominated by their respective parties for the presidency of the United States. Polk was elected president in 1844, six years after Black's death.

In 1815 Jefferson Seminary of Learning was established, It was housed in the old courthouse that had been built when Jefferson served as the county seat. Named as trustees of the institution were: John Coffee, Shelton Crosthwait, Walter Kibble, Peter LeGrand, and George Simpson.

In 1825 a third educational insitution, the Murfreesboro Female Academy, appeared. It was located at the site where the

Murfreesboro city school offices are located today. This private school catered exclusively to young ladies. Misses Mary and Nancy Banks composed the faculty and taught rhetoric, belles-lettres, painting, needle-work, and music.

The Murfreesboro Female Seminary, an ambitious although short-lived insitution, was opened in 1834 by Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Bowles. Located on East Bell Street it promised to augment its traditional curriculum with new philosophical approaches.

Other institutions of learning were scattered throughout the county. One of the oldest, Lascassas Academy, was organized in 1824 and was headed by a graduate of Princeton University. Several schools catered exclusively to women including: the Midsylvania Female Academy which was incorporated in 1834 and located five miles south of Murfreesboro; the Tennessee Baptist Female Institute whose student body numbered 83 in 1854; and Eaton College for Women which occupied a building later known as the Perkins Home on East Bell Street in Murfreesboro. Stones River Academy incorporated in 1854, the Milton Male and Female Academy incorporated in 1858, and the Union Hill Academy also served the area. Many of these academies lasted for only a short time, although the Bradley Academy was in operation for almost 30 years.

One of the first Rutherford County citizens to evidence a strong interest in public education was William Ledbetter. In 1834 Ledbetter was a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention convening in Nashville. Among other things he proposed was an investigation into the status of the common school fund. He was placed on the educational committee for the state and was largely responsible for the appointment of the State Board of Common School Commissioners in 1836. Ledbetter was the father of Capt. William Ledbetter who formed the Rutherford Rifles at the outbreak of the Civil War.

The United States Census for 1840 showed that there were 24 primary and common schools in Rutherford County with 653 enrolled of whom 253 were at public expense. Illiteracy was high and very little money was appropriated at the state level for education. By 1850 there were 53 teachers in 51 schools teaching

1673 students—most of these one-room school houses. It was 1854 before the Legislature authorized public taxation for schools.

Union University

The Baptists of the state, working through the Tennessee Baptist Educational Society, founded Union University in 1848. This institution was located on the campus where the Central Middle School is located today. The Reverend John H. Eaton served as president of the university from its opening until his death in 1859. Beginning with an enrollment of about 50 students, the university soon reached an enrollment of over 300, most of whom were training to become ministers.

From the beginning the history of Union University was closely interwoven with that of the First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro. Dr. Eaton, one of the most distinguished educators in the history of Tennessee, not only served as president of the university but at the same time was pastor of the newly created church. Before the Civil War, all four pastors of the First Baptist Church were either presidents or faculty members of the university. Both the church and the university were closed shortly after the Civil War began. The vacated buildings served as military hospitals for four years and were damaged almost beyond repair. During 1868 the university made a feeble effort to reopen, and for a time it seemed that the school would experience a revival. However, the cholera epidemic and the Panic of 1873 forced the Baptists to close the doors of the Murfreesboro institution.

Soule College

The earliest college in Rutherford County was Soule College, name for Joshua Soule. The institution, which was organized in 1851 by members of the Methodist church, offered from one to two years of college work. It was located where the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation is today. The Reverend J. R. Finley was elected president and members of the board of trustees were: B. W. Avent, L. H. Carney, W. F. Lytle, T. W. Randle, William Spence, Joseph Watkins, and D. D. Wendell. For the first two years of its existence Soule College occupied the

Soule college in the late nineteenth century

building of the old Female Academy in Murfreesboro. A new building was ready for occupancy in November of 1853 and was described as a "commodious college edifice."

The goals of the college were to provide a thorough education of the mind and heart and to impart sound and useful knowledge. Throughout the history of the school, the pupils were supervised closely in all matters of a moral and religious nature. Ultimately, the growth of public schools and the competition of other private schools forced the institution to close in 1917.

Sarah Childress

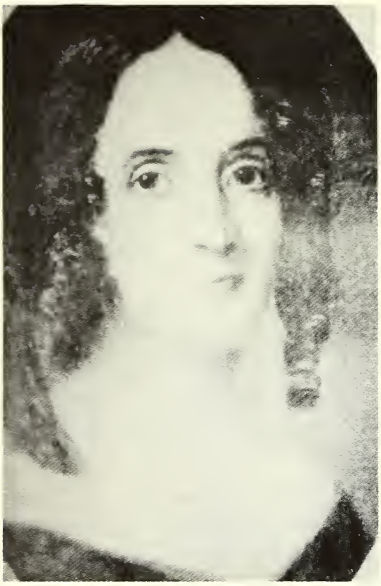
Sarah Childress (Mrs. James K. Polk), was born in Rutherford County on September 4, 1803, the third of six children born to Joel and Elizabeth Childress. Other children were Anderson, Susanna, Benjamin, John, and Elizabeth. Benjamin and Elizabeth died during infancy.

When Joel Childress moved from the Cumberland settlements to what is now Rutherford County in 1803, he purchased land on the Bradyville Pike near the Black Fox Springs area. The 1810 census listed him as having 10 slaves. Joel became a merchant and tavernkeeper as well as a large land owner. He served the town of Murfreesboro as alderman and was postmaster from

1813 to 1817. As a merchant, he purchased from Philadelphia the uniform that Andrew Jackson wore in 1814 in New Orleans.

Joel Childress was interested in providing the best education that he could afford for his children. Susanna and Sarah, in their early years, attended the Daniel Elam School on the Bradyville Pike. Later, they were to sent to Bradley Academy to be tutored by Samuel Black in preparation for their entry to the Abercrombie School in Nashville. In 1817, the two young ladies, accompanied by their brother Anderson, rode by horseback to Salem, North Carolina (now Winston-Salem) where they enrolled at the Moravian Female Academy. Before they left on the journey their father gave each of them a gold French coin worth at the time about $4.80. The 500-mile overland trip took a month, and one can imagine the discomforts and hardships that they endured. The courses of study offered to them at the Academy were grammer, syntax, history, geography, English reading and writing, cyphering, sewing, embroidery, drawing, painting, and music. The building where Sarah and Susanna lived and studied was called South Hall and is still used today as a dormitory. The cost of their education was about $200 a year for each. Records indicate that they attended the Academy from June 1, 1817 to May 27, 1819. The death of their father caused them to terminate their studies and to return to Murfreesburo. Their brother, Anderson, came to Salem to accompany them on the return trip which they made by stagecoach and lasted a week. Although finances were no problem, Sarah and Susanna had no thought of returning to the Salem Academy as they felt their duty was to help and comfort their mother. In the fall of 1819 they traveled the thirty miles to Nashville to see the arrival of Nashville's first steamboat, the *General Jackson*, which had been built at Pittsburgh for Gov. William Carroll. It was a gala affair, with bands playing, carriages crowding the pier, cheering from the crowd, and parasols waving wildly. Three years later the steamboat sank on the Harpeth Shoal.

The romance between James K. Polk and Sarah Childress blossomed in Murfreesboro and eventually they were married. Some records state that the marriage took place on September



Sarah Childress Polk *(left)*, the John Childress home *(above)*

4, 1822, when Sarah was 19 years old, but most authorities think the wedding occurred on January 1, 1824. The nuptials were celebrated in Murfreesboro with a round of house parties that lasted a week. The bride and her husband were entertained by the Ruckers, the Lytles, the Wendells, and other friends. James K. Polk's father gave the young couple a horse and a cart with a water barrel. He also gave them a small slave boy, Elias, who served them for many years. The bride and groom traveled for two days to Columbia, Tennessee, where once again they went through a series of parties. They made their home in a two-room log house located across the street from the present-day Polk Home.

Sarah Polk accompanied her husband as he rose in politics from a member of the State Legislature to congressman, to governor of the state of Tennessee, and finally to the office of president of the United States. While in the White House, Sarah, a devout Presbyterian, discontinued the practice of dancing and the serving of alcoholic drinks. She was intensely loyal to her husband and on one occasion tore up an invitation which she and the President had received from Van Buren. This action

resulted from her hearing of some critical remarks which Van Buren had made concerning Polk.

Polk served only one term as president, and when he and Mrs. Polk left Washington to return to Tennessee he was afflicted with dysentery and was in a weakened condition. They purchased the Grundy home in Nashville and had plans to do extensive renovations, but Polk lived only 53 days after he returned home. He was baptized into the Methodist Church a few hours before his death.

Mrs. Polk continued to make her home in Nashville. In some respects she became the dowager queen of Nashville, and in later years she was a recluse. She continued to wear mourning clothes for the rest of life and appeared in public only to attend church or to visit her mother in Murfreesboro. Her husband had died at the age of 54, and she lived for 42 more years.

During the remainder of her life she was the recipient of many courtesies and marks of respect from public officials in Nashville and elsewhere. For years the State Legislature called upon her in a body on New Years Day, the anniversary of her marriage, and during the Civil War she received kind consideration from both Confederate and Union officials. During the war when she desired to visit her mother in Murfreesboro, she was provided with transportation and a guard. Some of her friends stored their silver in her home during the war, knowing that it would not be disturbed. On July 4, 1888, she opened the Cincinnati Centennial Exposition from her home, the Polk Place. Wiring was brought into her home, and Mrs. Polk touched the botton that started the machinery at the Exposition. During the last few years of her life, she received an annual pension of $5000 granted to her by Congress in 1882. She died on August 14, 1891, and was buried in a tomb beside her husband on the front lawn of the Polk Place. Some years later her body and that of the president were entombed on the state capitol grounds. Eventually the Polk home was razed, and the Polk Apartments were erected on the site. Today a motel occupies the spot where the home of Sarah and James K. Polk once stood.

One of the constant reminders to citizens of Murfreesboro

of this outstanding personality, Sarah Childress Polk, is a house located on the corner of East Lytle and Academy streets. This house, commonly referred to as the "Childress Home" and built about 1847, was purchased by Maj. John Childress in 1874. Major Childress, who had taken part in many important Civil War battles and who had been a prisoner of the Federals during the conflict, was Mrs. Polk's brother. Mrs. Polk, following the death of her husband, was a frequent visitor in his home. Today, the house is in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Kelley Ray, and in December of 1979 it was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Churches

Most of the early settlers in Rutherford County held deep religious convictions, and by the time the county was organized in 1804 there were groups of Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians holding services in homes, barns, log schoolhouses, or in the open when weather permitted.

The first Presbyterians to settle in the county were probably those who came about 1800 to the Stewart's Creek area near where Smyrna is located today. Another early group settled in the vicinity of Murfree Springs near present-day Murfreesboro. Also, there was a Presbyterian church, thought to have been called Mt. Pisgah, located at Jefferson; most of the members of this church later affiliated themselves with Smyrna Presbyterian Church which was organized in 1820 by the Reverend Samuel Hodge. Many prominent early Rutherford County families—such as Bradford, Cannon, Davis, Edmondson, Gooch, Hibbits, Hight, Hill, Holloway, Keeble, Lowry, Martin, Neely, Nelson, Tucker, and Weakley—were associated with this early Smyrna church. The Stones River Presbyterian Church between Hall's Hill and Porterfield, the Hopewell Church at Milton, and the Cripple Creek Church southwest of Readyville were three other Presbyterian churches of this early period.

In the early 1800s a group of Presbyterians held services in a schoolhouse that stood on a hill just above Murfree Springs near the present site of the Coca Cola bottling works. Later they

moved from this location to a schoolhouse that stood at the present site of a mainstreet grocery between Maney and Academy streets. From this second location they assembled in the Rutherford County courthouse for a period of time just prior to their being organized into a church. Dr. Robert Henderson, a minister and a member of the Bradley Academy faculty, led the group in their efforts. Dr. Henderson, born in Virginia in 1764, moved with his family to Tennessee where he became a student of Dr. Samuel Doak at Martin College (later to become Washington College) in East Tennessee. At the age of 24 Henderson was ordained a minister, and for 23 years he served as a pastor of various churches before coming to Murfreesboro at the age of 47. He was intensely interested in education and a powerful and courageous leader in the early years of the Murfreesboro Presbyterian Church. It was under his leadership that the group took steps to erect their first permanent house of worship. This structure, a brick building about 40 by 60 feet, was located on East Vine Street at the site of the present old city cemetery. Only a belfry broke the severe lines of this rectangular edifice which stood on a lot donated to the church by Capt. William Lytle. Around three sides of the interior of the building was a gallery where the choir and organ were situated and where the slaves sat during worship services.

This Murfreesboro Presbyterian Church has had much historical significance, not only for Rutherford County, but also for the state of Tennessee and the nation. When the courthouse burned in 1822, while Murfreesboro was serving as the capital of the state, the General Assembly held their meetings in the Presbyterian building. To accommodate the Legislature, a floor was laid on a level with the balcony, and the House of Representatives met on the first floor while the Senate held their sessions on the upper level. During this period many distinguished state and national figures frequented this building: James K. Polk was clerk of the Senate; Sam Houston served as adjutant-general during this time; and Andrew Jackson was often in attendance at the legislative proceedings. By this time Jackson had won re-

First Presbyterian Church, built in 1888

nown in the War of 1812. Another prominent political figure who attended these sessions was David Crockett.

The church grew, and by 1827 it had 128 members. The most outstanding early pastor of this Presbyterian group was Dr. William Eagleton who served from 1829 until 1866. By 1853 the membership had reached 300, and Dr. Eagleton was actively engaged in organizing churches throughout the county. However, the Civil War was just over the horizon, and soon Murfreesboro was occupied by Union forces. It has been reported that the church members removed the bell from the belfry and hid it from the Northern army. The Union forces ultimately destroyed the building, took the brick to their camping areas, and used it to construct ovens. After the war, Dr. Eagleton led the group in constructing another building located on the corner of East College and North Spring Streets. This edifice served the needs of the congregation until it was almost completely destroyed by a tornado in 1913. The present building, completed in 1914, was erected on the same site as the second structure. Through the

years this church has listed on its rolls some of Rutherford County's most distinguished families: Baird, Baskett, Bock, Currin, Dickson, Evins, Maney, McFadden, Murfree, Perkins, Ready, Smith, Wendell, and Wilson. Gen. Joseph Dickson was one of the original members. He was associated with Gen. Griffith Rutherford in military action in North Carolina and was a member of the House of Representatives during the presidential election of 1800 when on the thirty-sixth ballot he cast the deciding vote in favor of Jefferson. Another person listed on the original church roll was John Smith, the builder of "Springfield," the antebellum home on the Manson Pike, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lou Jennings. This is one of the oldest homes in the county.

The Baptists had established churches in the county as early as 1800. Among these churches were the Republican Grove and Mt. Pleasant churches, both organized in 1800, the Rock Spring Church in 1804, and the Overall Church in 1805. During this early period there was also a Cummings Church probably located near Jefferson. There was rapid expansion of Baptist activity for the next few years: Stewarts Creek Church organized in 1813; Bethesda in 1814; Bradley's Creek, Bethlehem, Flat Rock, and New Hope in 1819; and somewhat later the Bethel and Providence churches. During the early 1800s, there was intense dissension within the various Baptist churches over questions of foot-washing, missions, Sunday Schools, and state conventions. These diverse ideas led to the organization of four or five different Baptist groups in the county.

It was not until 1843 that the First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro was organized. Strangely, those of the missionary faith in Murfreesboro appeared to be small in number and were overshadowed by the dominance of the Primitive Baptists who for several years had met in a building on the southeast corner of the public square. The few missionary Baptists in the town had by 1842 grown tired of the Sabbath trips to Nashville, Bethel, Overall Creek, or other churches of similar faith for their weekly worship. Therefore, during the latter part of 1842 and early in 1843, these Murfreesboro Baptists began making plans to form their own church. These planning sessions were held in the homes

of Thomas Maney and James Franklin Fletcher. On June 9, 1843, 16 persons intent on forming a missionary Baptist church met at Fletcher's schoolhouse (located on the Fletcher plantation in the vicinity of the present Mercury Plaza Shopping Center) and took steps to organize the church. Robert Boyte Crawford Howell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville, assisted the group in carrying out their plans. On June 11, 1843, Robert W. January was selected as an interim pastor. In December of 1843, John Haywood Eaton was called as a full-time pastor. Eaton was 31 years of age when he came to the Murfreesboro church, and already he was serving as part-time pastor of several small churches in the county. He also taught six days a week at the new Union University housed in the old Bradley Academy.

For over a year the newly-organized church held its services in the little schoolhouse on the Fletcher plantation, but by June of 1846 plans were being made for the erection of a church building. By now there were 39 members, not counting the slaves who were regarded as a part of the fellowship. For the sum of $300, deacons James Fletcher, Burrell Gunnaway, and John Molloy, representing the church, purchased a lot on the corner of Sevier and Spring streets; and for three long years the building program was in progress. Constructed of brick and capped by a tall spire, the church accommodated 150 worshippers and was ready for occupancy in January of 1849.

Not only was the Baptist Church in the throes of a building program, but the trustees of Union University had purchased a lot on the Woodbury Pike (now the location of Central Middle School) and plans were being made to erect a university building. Therefore, the pastor, John Haywood Eaton, found himself engaged in two energy-consuming campaigns that required much fortitude on his part. On December 2, 1848, Pastor Eaton tendered his resignation on the grounds that it was impossible for him to discharge his duties as a minister in view of his other responsibilities. He had spent 15 years of his life ministering to the needs of the church and the university, and it was in Murfreesboro that he died at the age of 46, only a few short years after severing his ties with the church. He was buried in the city cem-

etery on Vine Street but this interment proved to be only temporary. Students from Union University launched a campaign to erect an imposing tomb on the university campus, and six months after his death his body was moved to this location. The native limestone tomb consisted of two compartments, one for Eaton and the other for his wife, Esther, who lived on for many years following the death of her husband. Eventually, Baptists severed their connection with this plot of land, and the two bodies were moved along with the elaborate tomb to the Evergreen Cemetery.

During the summer of 1861 the Confederate flag was raised over the courthouse in Murfreesboro. The pastor of the Baptist Church at this time was Dr. James Madison Pendleton, an ardent supporter of the Union and passionate crusader against slavery. In addition to his duties as a pastor, this controversial figure also served on the faculty of Union University. Many members of the church refused to attend services because of Pendleton's views regarding slavery and seccession, and certain of his Murfreesboro enemies threatened to hang him. It was reported that Pendleton kept a rear window of his home unlatched and a fresh knapsack of food ready in the event that he and his wife must leave town hurriedly. By October of 1862 Pendleton decided that it was no longer safe for him to remain in Murfreesboro so he and his wife, traveling separately, left town.

During the war this Baptist building on the corner of Sevier and Spring streets was used by both Northern and Southern armies as a hospital. The pews were removed and replaced by cots. After the Battle of Stones River, the Union Army moved into permanent occupation of the town, and martial law prevented citizens from assembling in large groups. Therefore, the homes of church members served as gathering places for religious meetings, and by the time that the war was over the little Baptist church was in a shambles.

By 1868 plans for a new building were underway. This second building, located on the corner of Spring and East Main streets in the vicinity of the present Episcopal Church, was ready for occupancy by 1870. The only adornment of the poorly-con-

First Baptist church, built in 1920

structed brick building was a bell tower. This building was to serve the Murfreesboro Baptist congregation until the completion of the present structure in 1920. The present-day building, located only one block from the public square, is adorned with six massive limestone columns topped by Ionic capitals supporting the pediment; this building is one of the finest to be found in the city. During the depression years the membership temporarily lost possession of this fine structure, but regained ownership in December of 1937. Today the First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro has one of the largest congregations of any church in the county.

Methodism was introduced into Rutherford County in the early 1800s. By 1812 Methodists were holding meetings in the homes of Thomas Jarrat, Charles Locke, Nat Overall, James Rucker, and John Windrow. It is thought that the Methodists constructed log church buildings in the county as early as 1814. The Salem Methodist Church, organized in 1814, met in a log structure which was later replaced with a brick building. The Bethel Church was organized about the same time, and by 1850 there were 19 Methodist churches in the county.

Camp meetings held in the early 1800s added stimulus to the

organization of other Methodist churches. One of the best known of these camp grounds was located about nine miles southeast of Murfreesboro and referred to as the Windrow Camp Grounds. Located in a dense grove of maples, the camp was constructed of red cedar rails covered with boards. People from surrounding counties as well as from Rutherford County attended these meetings, and many conversions resulted from the preaching of the gospel. There were other campgrounds in the county—Overall's located about 20 miles east of the Windrow place and Lytle's Camp Ground on Stones River near Murfreesboro.

The First Methodist Church of Murfreesboro came into being as a result of camp meetings held at Windrow in the 1820s. Charter members of this early church were: Benjamin Blankenship and wife, Martin Clark, Edward Fisher and wife, William Ledbetter, John Lytle and wife, Levi Reeves, Willis Reeves, William Rucker, and G. A. Sublett. Bishop Paine was the first pastor. Their first building, erected in 1823, was built on land donated by John Lytle and located in the vicinity of the present-day Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation on North Maple Street. In 1844 another building was constructed just south of the location of the present-day church. This congregation grew rapidly and was instrumental in founding Soule College. During the Civil War the 1844 building was badly damaged, and the present structure was erected in 1888.

Church of Christ members held services at various locations, including private homes and the Rutherford County courthouse, as early as 1833. The teachings of Alexander Campbell had brought about a split in the Baptist churches of the county, and many of those who left the Baptist faith became affiliated with the emerging Church of Christ. The Science Hill Church of Christ near Readyville and the Antioch Church near Porterfield were probably two of the earliest to be organized in the county.

About 1850 Murfreesboro Church of Christ members were meeting regularly in a brick schoolhouse on West Vine Street near Lytle's Creek. They continued to meet here for worship until 1859 when they purchased a lot on the corner of East Main

Left, First Methodist Church; *above,* Main Street Church of Christ

and Academy streets and erected a building there. This building was used by both Northern and Southern armies as a hospital during the Civil War. Local accounts of the Civil War period relate that often on Sabbath mornings, after the military audience had filed into this church, Gen. James A. Garfield would enter, unstrap his saber and army revolver, place them on a front pew, and then take his position in the pulpit. This preacher-general was chief of staff for the Union Army of the Cumberland and later became the twentieth president of the United States. In 1900 the congregation members decided to construct a better building than the one that withstood the Civil War. Accordingly, they tore down the older structure and erected a new building on the same location.

By the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians all had strong organizations in Rutherford County, and the Church of Christ was making steady progress. By this time the Cumberland Presbyterian Church had also been organized and its membership was growing rapidly. There were a few Catholics and Episcopalians in the county, but an Episcopal congregation was not organized until the 1880s.

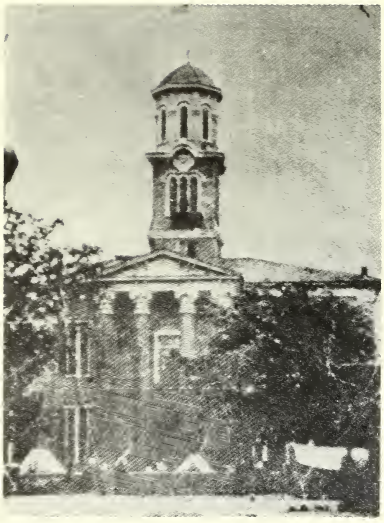
Not until 1918 were there sufficient Catholic families to justify efforts toward holding services; in 1929 they constructed a place of worship.

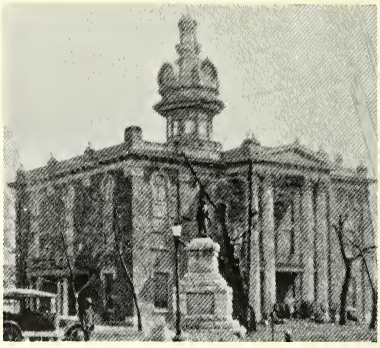
Pre-Civil War Period

During the decade before the Civil War, Rutherford County experienced a high point in agriculture, transportation, education, and the economy. In 1853 a reporter for a religious newspaper visited Murfreesboro and was moved to say that the county seat was certainly the "Athens of the South." Educational institutions in full flower at that time were Union University, Soule College, the Baptist Female Institute, Eaton's College for Women, and several academies.

A contract for a new jail was awarded to T. J. Bulgett on September 11, 1852, at a cost of $8000, and in 1858 a committee composed of V. D. Cowan, F. Henry, E. A. Keeble, W. F. Lytle, and George Smith was appointed to study the need for a new courthouse. The committee reported that a new and larger structure was an absolute necessity, and a contract to construct the building was awarded to E. E. Dandridge of Nashville with James H. Yeaman named as supervising architect. A completion date of January 1, 1859, was set for the project, but the building was not quite finished by that time, and Yeaman was given an extension of thirty days. Upon completion of the structure, which cost $50,000, the architect was paid $587.50 for his services and an additional $100 for "efficient and faithful performance of his duties." This building, with the exception of minor renovations and the addition of the north and south wings in 1960, is basically the same courthouse in use today.

During the period preceding the Civil War, Rutherford was one of the leading counties in the state in agriculture. Her farm production included: corn, cotton, wheat and other grain products; tobacco; dairy products; the raising of hogs and sheep as well as thoroughbred horses. According to the 1850 census, nearly 18,500 pounds of butter and 1500 pounds of cheese were produced for sale in the county. Approximately 170,000 pounds of





The Rutherford County Courthouse in 1863 *(left)*, and 1927 *(above)*

tobacco and 15,000 bales of cotton were produced at this time. Rutherford County farms were listed as having 9995 horses, 2227 mules, 7737 milk cows, 2010 working oxen, 25,604 sheep, and 88,794 swine.

Prior to the Civil War there was an increase in the establishment of business firms in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County—a hardware store was opened by John C. Spence; a jewelry store by F. Garland, James Reed, and R. D. Reed; a book store by Craig and Fletcher; a livery stable by Todd and Carnahan; and a carriage shop by R. S. Smith. In 1855 the Rio Mills opened for business and produced about 200 barrels of flour a day. A distillery was added to this firm in 1860. The first gas works started in Murfreesboro in 1857. The Cedar Bucket Factory, a forerunner of a post-Civil War industry that was to be highly successful, opened in 1854 with John Spence as owner. The Exchange Bank, started by William and Joseph Spence, was established in the summer of 1852. It did a prosperous business for about five years before it was forced to close. The Planters Bank, with John Childress as president and William Ledbetter as cashier, began operation in Murfreesboro in 1859. With the outbreak of the Civil War, the

business of this firm was transferred to a Nashville institution and the bank did not reopen after the war.

During this period there was a rapid expansion in the incorporation of turnpike companies. The Nashville-Murfreesboro and Shelbyville Turnpike, which was started in the 1830s, was completed by 1842. The Murfreesboro and Manchester Pike was completed by 1849, the Woodbury Pike in 1851, and the Jefferson Pike in 1849. The Manson Pike (known then as Wilkinson's Crossroads) was completed in 1858. A large number of turnpike companies were incorporated in the 1850s to construct roads between Murfreesboro and smaller communities in the county. Among them were: Murfreesboro-Franklin (1850), Murfreesboro-Bradyville (1855), Murfreesboro-Lascassas (1856), Fosterville-Middleton (1854), Murfreesboro-Middleton (1856), Murfreesboro-Liberty (1852), Cripple Creek (1858), Eagleville-Salem (1859), and Nashville to Eagleville by way of Windrow Camps (1858). The Murfreesboro-Lebanon road begun in 1838 was still not completed at the outbreak of the Civil War.

The road bed of the Nashville-Murfreesboro and Shelbyville Turnpike was 30 feet wide, with the gravel section being 20 feet. The width of less important roads was usually 14 to 16 feet. Roads were constructed to slope away from the center, and ditches were dug along the sides for drainage. Certain safety regulations regarding the use of the turnpikes were passed by the State Legislature. All drivers were required to turn to the right and yield one-half of the road to an approaching wagon or carriage. Cracking the whip or making other loud noises was prohibited. It was unlawful to cause any type of disturbance that would alarm an animal. No driver was to stop his vehicle without first turning to the right and leaving at least one-half of the road unobstructed. Penalties for not observing these regulations were not less than a $10 fine and not more than three months in jail. It was unlawful to drive around a toll gate to avoid paying. Toll charges for the use of these early turnpikes were not uniform. The following is representative of what most companies charged:

20 heads of sheep or hogs ..... 10¢

20 heads of meat cattle	25¢
every horse or mule not pulling a carriage or wagon	3¢
carriage or wagon pulled by one horse or mule	10¢
carriage or wagon pulled by two or three horses or mules	25¢
man on horseback	5¢

Construction of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, whose lines had reached Murfreesboro in 1851, crept slowly towards Chattanooga. Although many had predicted that the construction of a tunnel through the mountainous area was impossible, the railroad finally reached Chattanooga in January of 1854, thus linking Nashville, Murfreesboro, and other Middle Tennessee towns with a southeastern Tennessee city that was to be a key center during the Civil War.

Whatever growth or accomplishments that Rutherford County had attained in agriculture, education, industry, and transportation were curtailed in 1861 with the outbreak of the Civil War and the period of adjustment and reconstruction that was to follow.

The Civil War

Tennessee's and Rutherford County's loyalty to the Union was evidenced in the presidential election of 1860 when both the state and county cast their votes in favor of the Constitutional Union Party and John Bell. Some months later, the question of secession was rejected in Tennessee by a vote of 88,803 citizens opposed to such action, while only 27,749 voted in favor. In the same referendum, Rutherford Countians voted against secession. The *Rutherford Telegraph*, published at this time in Murfreesboro by the staunch Unionist R. S. Northcutt, expressed the feeling that was prevalent in the state and county, "Under the circumstances that now exist, there is no cause whatsoever for disunion, and he that favors it can be guilty of nothing short of treason to his country."The motto of Northcutt's paper was "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable."When war finally did come to Murfreesboro, these strong sentiments led Northcutt to suspend publication of his paper and go north where he became a brigadier-general in the Federal Army.

In opposition to the *Telegraph* was the *Murfreesboro News*, one of the forerunners of the present-day *News Journal*, whose motto was, "We claim the right of thought, and what we think we assert." The views expressed by the *Murfreesboro News* were indicative of the growing sentiment in favor of leaving the Union. The governor of the state, Isham G. Harris, and most of the members of the General Assembly were in favor of secession, despite the February 9, 1861, vote in which a majority of Tennessee citizens had expressed their opposition to leaving the Union. In January and February of 1861, four of the slave states bordering Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Arkansas, took steps to join the Confederacy. Tennesseans who had hoped to remain neutral in the conflict now began to wonder where the best interests of their state might be. The first gunshot at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, followed by President Lincoln's call on April 15 for 75,000 troops, and the blockade of all ports of seceded states, drove Tennessee and Rutherford County from their neutral attitude to one of cooperation with the Confederacy. Both Tennessee and Rutherford County were now ready for secession.

The Legislature was convened in special session on April 25, 1861, and resolutions were adopted on May 1 authorizing Gov. Isham G. Harris to enter into a military league with the Confederate States. On May 7 the Legislature passed the Ordinance of Seccession, to be submitted to the people for ratification. On June 8, 1861, the ordinance was adopted by a vote of 104,913 in favor of seccession to 42,238 opposed. In Rutherford County the vote was 2392 for leaving the Union, with only 73 against such action. On June 24 Governor Harris issued a proclamation that the political ties which had bound Tennessee to the United States were dissolved. By this time the flag of the Confederacy was waving over the courthouse in Rutherford County.

It has been said that, based on population, Rutherford County furnished more men to the Confederate cause than any other county in the state. The first regiment raised in the county was the Second Tennessee in 1862. Two of its companies were made up almost entirely of men from Rutherford County. The 18th Regiment, raised by Gen. Joseph Palmer, had three companies

composed of Rutherford County enlistments. One of the most outstanding companies from the county was the "Rutherford Rifles" under the command of Capt. William Ledbetter. There were close to 30 Rutherford County men who either before or during the Civil War distinguished themselves by rising to the ranks of officers. Among such men were found descendants of some of the county's earliest citizens—Adkerson, Battle, Butler, Gooch, Hale, Jetton, Keeble, Lytle, Maney, McKnight, Nelson, Patterson, Ridley, Robinson, Smith, Sparks, Webb, and Woods.

Forrest's Raid on Murfreesboro

A part of the strategy of the North in their efforts to win the Civil War was to obtain control of the main rivers, railroads, turnpikes, and communication systems of the South, thereby preventing the movement of Confederate troops and supplies. After the fall of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in early 1862, Middle Tennessee was occupied by Federal troops. In July of 1862 Murfreesboro was garrisoned by the 23rd Brigade, a Union force charged with guarding the rail lines between Nashville and Murfreesboro. This unit, totalling about 1400 men, was commanded by Col. William Duffield whose headquarters were in the Oaklands Mansion, the home of Dr. James Maney.

At this time Colonel Duffield confronted a difficult situation concerning the discipline of his men. Jealousy and feuding among officers of two infantry regiments had affected the men in the ranks. There were continuing brawls in the streets while military police, billeted in the courthouse and in tents on the lawn, tried to keep order. To compound the situation, the provost marshal, Capt. Oliver Rounds, was vindictively enforcing military regulations imposed upon the citizens. In an effort to solve these problems, Gen. Don Carlos Buell, Commander of the 14th Army, sent Brig. Gen. T. T. Crittenden to Murfreesboro to assume command of the post and make efforts to stabilize conditions. General Crittenden arrived on July 11, 1862, and was quartered in the Spence Hotel on the southwest corner of the public square.

Meanwhile, Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest, with a Confederate task force of 1300 men, had been ordered to move on Mur-

freesboro and capture or disperse the Union garrison stationed there. In addressing his men and outlining objectives planned for the raid, Forrest expressed the hope that he could celebrate his 41st birthday, on July 13, by capturing the Union troops stationed in Murfreesboro.

On July 12, 1862, Forrest and his cavalry moved through the low foothills of Cannon County, reaching Woodbury about midnight. Here he found the public square filled with female citizens who pleaded with Forrest to free their men who, for some unrecorded reason, were being held captive in the Rutherford County jail. The rumor was that some remark made by one or more Cannon County citizens had aroused the ire of the Union brigade at Murfreesboro, resulting in a raid on Woodbury in which several of the male inhabitants were arrested and confined in the Rutherford jail. Forrest promised that these men would be back in Woodbury by dusk of the next day. After an early morning breakfast served to him and his men at "The Corners," home of Charles Ready, Forrest and his cavalrymen moved toward Murfreesboro, about 28 miles away.

In the darkness of the early morning, Forrest and his men slipped into the town. They galloped up East Main Street and one division, nearing Union University, veered off to attack the Michigan force encamped at Oaklands. Two of Forrest's battalions moved toward the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, a Union force encamped near the present-day Evergreen Cemetery. The main force, under Forrest, headed for the public square and the courthouse where some seven or eight Confederate prisoners were being held awaiting execution by Union authorities.

The Confederates met stiff resistance at Oaklands and were driven back toward the Lascassas Pike, but not before Colonel Duffield was painfully wounded and carried into the Maney home. The entire Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment, however, was captured just as they were mounting their horses.

As Forrest approached the square he faced a spirited defense by military police who were deployed at the windows on the two floors of the court building. Forrest placed two lines of men in single file on the west and east sides of the courthouse. The first

soldier in each line was given an axe, and the men in the line were instructed, in the event a comrade fell, that the axe was to be passed from man to man until the doors were reached and battered down. The building was taken and, to dislodge the sharpshooters who had taken refuge on the upper levels of the courthouse, a fire was built in the hallway of the ground level. This strategy was successful, and then Forrest and his men moved on the jail. The few Union guards stationed there surrendered quickly, and the Cannon County men were freed. The dozen or so Union men stationed at the Spence Hotel as guards surrendered and General Crittenden was taken prisoner. Simultaneously with the fall of the courthouse, a report to Forrest indicated that the provost marshall, Captain Rounds, had been apprehended in a nearby house hiding in his night clothes between two feather beds. Rounds was brought to the public square and paraded in his night clothes before a large crowd that had gathered after the firing ceased. Shortly thereafter the jail, the depot, the telegraph, and the courthouse were in Confederate hands.

Forrest next turned his attention to the Third Minnesota unit that was stationed three to four miles west of Murfreesboro near the present site of the National Guard Armory. Forrest's troops circled the Minnesota unit and destroyed wagons, supplies, and equipment. His troops made a desperate charge against the enemy, but they were driven back repeatedly by the Union detachment.

Leaving troops to keep the Third Minnesota under observation, Forrest headed for Oaklands, where Duffield lay wounded. There he decided upon a magnificent gamble. He sent a communication under flag of truce by one of his aides to the colonel which read: "Colonel—I must demand an immediate surrender of your forces as prisoners of war, or I will have every man put to the sword. You are aware of the overpowering force I have at my command and this demand is made to prevent the further effusion of blood. I am, Colonel, very respectfully. your obedient servant. N. B. Forrest, Acting Brigadier General of Cavalry, C.S.A.". It was not long before Forrest was notified of Duffield's readiness to surrender. The Confederate cavalry leader then en-

Oaklands Mansion

tered Oaklands to accept the surrender. Technically, since General Crittenden's capture, Duffield was in command, and the surrender included the entire garrison.

However, the Third Minnesota was still holding its position west of Murfreesboro. Forrest galloped out the Nashville Pike and sent a letter, identical to the one given to Duffield, to Col. Henry C. Lester, the Union officer in command. Lester requested permission to confer with Duffield before making any decision. This was allowed, and Lester made the long trek across town to Oaklands. Meanwhile, Forrest marched and countermarched his men along adjacent streets so as to convey a distorted impression of the number of his troops. Later, in writing up his report, Colonel Lester was to estimate the Confederate forces at 4000. After conferring with Colonel Duffield, Lester was convinced that his only recourse was to surrender.

After destroying all the nontransportable stores and several miles of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad track, Forrest and his cavalrymen, along with about 1000 Union prisoners and several hundred wagons, moved out the Woodbury Pike. By now it was five o'clock in the afternoon of July 13, Forrest's birthday, and the Confederate leader had completed the most rigorous

part of his mission. The Union prisoners and the captured supplies would be delivered to Confederate officers in Knoxville. Forrest had ridden into Murfreesboro a colonel, and eight days later he was elevated to the rank of brigadier general.

Battle of Stones River

In the fall of 1862, following his Kentucky campaigns, Gen. Braxton Bragg marched his Army of Tennessee through the Cumberland Gap and back to Chattanooga. From there he began to move northwest toward Rutherford County. By December 2, 1862, his army was encamped northwest of Murfreesboro along Stones River, covering the approaches from the west.

The month of December was a period of much social activity in a town now occupied by friendly Rebel troops. The town's leading citizens entertained Confederate officers with dinners and dancing. All of this culminated in the elegant entertainment that took place when Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, arrived in Murfreesboro on December 12 to review the troops and was lavishly entertained during his three-day stay at Oaklands Mansion.

During this holiday season another well-known military leader visited Murfreesboro. Gen. John Hunt Morgan came to be commissioned a brigadier general and to be married to Mattie Ready, daughter of Charles Ready, colonel and former United States Congressman. Because of his renown as a daring cavalry leader, Morgan was welcomed to the town with a brass band and a cheering throng of citizens. President Jefferson Davis promoted Morgan to his new rank of brigadier general.

The wedding of Mattie Ready and Gen. John Hunt Morgan took place on December 14 in the Ready Mansion located near the public square at the present-day site of the Commerce Union Bank. It was attended by the high echelon of the Confederate army stationed in Murfreesboro, and Generals Braxton Bragg, John C. Breckinridge, B. J. Cheatham, W. J. Hardee, and Colonel G. St. Leger Grenfell served Morgan as groomsmen. The best man was Morgan's brother-in-law, Basil Duke. The "Fighting Bishop" Leonidas Polk performed the ceremony.

Martha Ready and John Hunt Morgan

On Christmas Eve of 1862 a grand ball, sponsored by the First Louisiana and the Sixth Kentucky regiments, was held in the Rutherford County courthouse. Candles illuminated the large hallways and behind each candle a bayonet reflected the light on the festive scene. A pyramidal chandelier of bayonets and candles hung from the ceiling and trees of greenery and jars of flowers decorated the dance hall. Two B's, entwined in evergreen on one side of the hall, were representative of Bragg and Breckenridge, while trophies, including Yankee flags captured by Gen. John Hunt Morgan, were displayed. The revelers danced the stately cotillion and the graceful waltz far into the night, and one soldier later recalled, "The candle light shone on fair ladies and brave men."

These holiday spirits were to take an unpleasant turn when, on December 31, the Army of Tennessee, under the command

of General Bragg, and the Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Gen. William Starke Rosecrans, faced each other in one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

Bad weather and delaying tactics by Gen. Joe Wheeler's cavalrymen had slowed Rosecrans' army as it moved from Nashville toward Murfreesboro. It took the Union army, which left Nashville on December 26, four days to travel the 30 miles to Murfreesboro. Once on the battlefield, Rosecrans deployed his army of 43,000 in a position stretching from Stones River at McFadden Fort to the banks of Overall Creek. General Bragg, with approximately 38,000 men, was in a position west of Murfreesboro almost parallel to and in close proximity to the Federal army.

On December 30th, the eve before the bloody encounter was to begin, soldiers from both armies visited across the lines, swapping tobacco and sitting around each other's camp fires. When one of the army bands struck up the tune "Home, Sweet Home," the opposing band joined in and together they played the nostalgic melody. The music floated over the cedar thickets and open fields that on the next day were to be littered with the dead and dying.

By a peculiar quirk of circumstances, both Bragg and Rosecrans had decided upon identical plans of attack—a flanking movement against the enemy's right. Had both armies attacked at the same time and with equal force, the result could have been a pivoting of 180 degrees with the armies actually exchanging their original positions.

General Bragg gained an advantage over the Union forces by attacking an hour earlier than the scheduled Union assault. At daybreak Bragg's left wing, under Hardee, broke through the wooded area near the juncture of the Franklin Pike and Grisham Lane, taking the Federals by surprise. The Union soldiers were cooking and eating breakfast, their guns stacked and some of the horses unhitched and being led to water. Although the surprised Federals fought gallantly, they were driven back toward the Nashville Pike.

When informed of the attack on his right, General Rosecrans was forced to change his battle plans. He ordered Crittenden's

left wing to stop its drive on the Confederate right and come to the center to help repel the on-rushing Confederates. Unmindful of enemy fire, General Rosecrans was near the railroad and Nashville Pike, observing and directing action. He and his chief of staff, Julius Garasche, were seated on their horses between the Nashville Pike and the railroad. Less than a mile away on a small hill, where the present-day Stones River Country Club is located, a Rebel gunner, looking through his binoculars, saw the small group of men. He aimed his artillery piece in their direction, and lobbed a cannon ball across the countryside. The shell struck Garasche, beheading him. For a few seconds Garasche's body remained astride his horse while the head went rolling over the ground. Later, Gen. James A. Garfield was to come to Murfreesboro to replace Garasche as Rosecrans' chief of staff.

On the battlefield, four brigades of Polk's division had moved up and were assisting in the assault. As the Rebel drive swept northward, the Yankees were forced to flee, leaving behind the dead and wounded, riderless horses, remnants of batteries, and deserted cannon. By noon, Bragg's objective had been attained, and the Union army had been forced back like a jackknife in a wide sweep of four or five miles.

By this time Rosecrans had assembled every brigade available and established a formidable line in the vicinity of the railroad, protected by a clump of trees called Round Forest. With fresh troops from the rear and backed by artillery, the Union army was now in a position to repulse the Confederate drive. The Rebels, elated with the success of their early morning drive, came bursting out of the cedar thickets in their first assault on Round Forest, only to be forced back by a hail of fire from the Union troops. After incurring terrific losses, the Rebel army was forced to slow its attack. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Bragg called on Breckinridge to send reinforcements. Breckinridge, unaware or uniformed of Crittenden's withdrawal, sent word to General Bragg that he was threatened with an immediate attack and could not release any of his brigades. Some Civil War historians believe that had Breckinridge complied with Bragg's request undoubtedly the Battle of Stones River

would have been a victory for the Confederates. By mid-afternoon, when Breckinridge realized that his fears of attack were imaginary, he sent troops across the river in compliance with Bragg's orders. Once again, the Confederates moved against the Round Forest position but were driven back with heavy losses. By now the short winter day was turning to darkness and both armies, exhausted from the day's fighting, were relieved to end the hostilities at least for the day.

Thus ended the first day's fighting. The Federal troops had been driven back some four or five miles, and the Confederates held the field at the end of the day. Prematurely exultant with the outcome of the first day's drive, Bragg wired President Davis, " The field is ours, and the enemy is falling back. God has granted us a happy New Year."

That evening in his headquarters, Rosecrans considered retreating. After conferring with his corps commanders, however, the decision was made to establish a new line of defense on higher ground and await the attack of the Confederate army.

There was little activity the following day, January 1, 1863, except for sporadic engagements by Confederate cavalry units against wagon trains going to and from Nashville with supplies for the Union forces. For the most part, the men of both armies spent the day burying their dead and replenishing their ammunition.

On the morning of January 2 Bragg was disturbed to discover that during the night a Federal detachment had crossed the river and was occupying a ridge to the front of the troops under the command of Breckinridge. Bragg immediately returned to their original position the brigades which he had ordered Breckinridge to move forward on the first day's fighting. Feeling that it was essential that this Union force be dislodged from the ridge, Bragg ordered Breckinridge to advance on their position. Breckinridge emphatically objected to this plan, pointing out to Bragg that the Federals holding the high ground west of the river could rake his troops with deadly fire. Bragg was not moved by this protest from his subordinate officer, and insisted that Breckinridge proceed with plans for the advance.

At four o'clock that afternoon, preceded by a heavy concentration of gunfire from his artillery, Breckinridge moved forward with 4500 men and successfully drove the Union detachment from its position on the ridge. The dislodged Union troops, pursued by Confederate soldiers, fled toward the river.

Meanwhile, General Crittenden, riding along the Nashville Pike opposite the Confederate forces, observed General Breckinridge forming his troops for the assault. Crittenden then ordered Major Mendenhall to assemble all available Union artillery and to mount the cannon on the high west bank of Stones River. Soon Mendenhall had 57 guns in place on an eminence overlooking the river near McFadden's Ford.

An error in judgment, either by Breckinridge or by the impetuous Rebels as they were pursuing the fleeing Federals, caused the Confederate advance to be carried too far. The Rebel forces continued their pursuit to the banks of the river, down the slopes and into the stream where they were now within range of Mendenhall's artillery. The guns rained a devastating fire upon the advancing Confederates. Line after line was decimated. A retreat was ordered, but not before 1700 Rebels lay dead or dying. The river, choked with the bodies of Confederate soldiers, ran red with blood.

Without doubt, this was the decisive engagement of the battle. On January 3, Bragg retreated with his army, moving toward Tullahoma, Tennessee, and leaving his dead to be buried by the enemy.

Both sides suffered terrific losses. Of the 38,000 Confederate troops engaged at the Battle of Stones River almost 10,000 were casualties; of the 43,000 Union men who took part in the battle nearly 13,000 were either killed or wounded.

Following Bragg's withdrawals, Murfreesboro was occupied by Federal troops for the rest of the war. For a period of six months Rosecrans' armies encircled the town, with pickets stationed at every road and lane leading into the community. Churches, schools, and other public buildings, as well as homes, were converted into makeshift hospitals where the wounded of both armies were carried for medical care. Several of the town's citizens, fearing for their safety, fled the city with Bragg's with-

The Robert Wendell home

drawal, and Federal officers commandeered their homes for headquarters. Gen. James A. Garfield, Rosecrans' chief of staff, moved into the Wendell home on East College Street, and General Rosecrans was nearby in the home of Col. E. A. Keeble which was located on the corner of College and Spring streets.

John Fitch, Rosecran's provost marshall, justified this takeover of Murfreesboro homes in a written report, "The Southern gentleman is not a 'creative aristocrat.' All of the shiny black marble in his mantel piece came from the North; the elegant sofa, chairs, and what-nots were made in Cincinnati; the clear white china came from New Jersey; the silver from Connecticut, and even the finely-bound volumes of classics were preserved in Massachusetts calf. Everywhere in the Southern home, even in the window panes and nails, were evidence of Yankee genius and art, and what is the impropriety of the Yankee enjoying his own?"

Fortress Rosecrans

During the spring and summer of 1863, on the outskirts of Murfreesboro, Union soldiers erected Fortress Rosecrans. The

fort, constructed principally by the Pioneer Brigade with details from other units and Murfreesboro men impressed into service, encircled parts of the Nashville Turnpike, the railroad, and Stones River. Inside the fort, which was to serve as a supply depot for Union operations in Tennessee and Georgia, were blockhouses, gristmills, warehouses, and sawmills. It had a perimeter of approximately three and one-half miles and stretched from the present site of the Agriculture Center to the Chromalox Company. After Rosecrans' army left Murfreesboro, fifteen regiments, composed of 1500 men each, were left behind to guard and man the fortress.

Following the war, this giant fortress remained relatively intact until Murfreesboro began to expand into the area. When the Federal government established the Stones River Military Battlefield in 1932, a small portion of the fort was included. Redoubt Brennan, one of the inner lines of the defensive garrison, lies within the park grounds. A portion of the massive earthworks that surrounded the fortress is being preserved today in the Old Fort Park, a recreation facility created by city and county officials.

A recent discovery in Rutherford County reminiscent of Fortress Rosecrans is a carving on a large boulder that juts out over the waters of Stones River near the present-day Stones River Country Club. The inscription chiseled on the rock is as follows: Daniel C. Miller, Co. B. 115 O.V.I. The name is enclosed with a scroll effect and is well preserved. Daniel Miller was stationed in Rutherford County during the years 1863 to 1865 as a member of the 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry which was assigned to guard the fortress. He was born in Germany and came to America at the age of 19. After coming to America his German name, which was spelled "Mueller," was changed to Miller. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was employed as a marble cutter with a monument company in Cleveland, Ohio. He enlisted at the age of 23 with the 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry, which was never engaged in a full-scale battle but was used mainly for occupation and guard duties. Some time after the completion of the fortress, the 115th Ohio Infantry was moved to Murfreesboro and

detailed along the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad from Murfreesboro to Nashville. Seven blockhouses were erected at points where the railroad crossed streams, four of them between Murfreesboro and La Vergne. Miller's blockhouse was designated as Number Seven and stood near the point where the railroad crosses Overall Creek near Murfreesboro.

Miller wrote many letters in German to his parents while on duty in Murfreesboro. Copies have been secured from his descendants and translated in English. There is evidence from one such letter that during the time he was assigned to his Murfreesboro post, he chiseled the inscription that is found on the Hazen's Brigade Monument in the Stones River National Battlefield. This is, perhaps, the oldest Civil War monument anywhere in the United States erected in memory of the Union dead.

These letters give very graphic details and vivid accounts of what life was like for a Union soldier on guard duty in a southern town in war times. One such letter dated February 15, 1864, reads,

> I and Bashihof are working already two and one-half days on the monument of which I talked in my previous letters. We like the work very much and can work when we want to. We start in the morning around eight and finish at four in the afternoon. I can't tell yet whether we shall get extra pay for that, but the supervisor surgeon told us that General Hazen will treat us well.

Another letter dated January 14, 1864, says, "We have shot more than 50 hares since we are here, and when a young pig comes to our line, it will be seized and treated like a Rebel." Indications are that Miller had never seen cotton growing before because in one of his letters in December of 1863, he says, "The cotton seed I took from an old barn in which I found more than 50 bushels. It will rot if it does not get to a dry place. There are still large fields of it which have not been picked. The plants get two or three or four feet tall. When it gets ripe it becomes brown like a chestnut. There are ten to twenty to thirty seeds on one plant as large as eggs. They open when they get ripe like a chestnut."

A July 20, 1864, letter revealed that the men on guard duty

had much time to spend as they wished. Miller corroborated this when he wrote, "I am very busy making rings. I already made seven for three dollars and a half and have four to make for a half dollar more. I am also making a cane out of cedar wood. Instead of a snake design I am making a grapevine on it. It is almost ready. I wouldn't sell it for eight dollars." In another letter he mentions making the rings out of silver coins, and, after engraving orange blossoms on the bands, sold them to soldiers for their brides.

On August 10, 1864, he wrote, "We still have a good life and even better now because the peaches and watermelons are ripe, besides that we caught a Rebel pig that helped to alter our menu." On April 17, 1865, he wrote, "We have heard that our President Lincoln was shot in a theatre in Washington last Friday night and died Saturday morning. If this is true, it will be very bad on us. We are not quite sure of all this but you perhaps heard the news. And also that Rebel General Lee with his army has surrendered, including the bloodhound Forrest."

Rutherford County's Five Brigadier Generals

Five men born in Rutherford County rose to the rank of brigadier general either before or during the war. They were William Barksdale, Henry Eustace McCulloch, Ben McCulloch, Winfield Scott Featherston, and Joseph Palmer. Of these men, Joseph Palmer was the only one who made Rutherford County his lifelong home.

Joseph Palmer, born November 1, 1825, was the son of William and Mildred Johns Palmer. He attended Union University, studied law, and in 1849 was admitted to the bar. He married Ophelia Burrus in 1854, and two years later his wife died after giving birth to their son, Horace E. Palmer. During the Civil War, Joseph Palmer organized Company C. of the 18th Tennessee Infantry. He was made a colonel in 1861, was captured at Fort Donelson in February of 1862, and sent as a prisoner to Camp Chase, Ohio. In a prisoner of war exchange, he was released, and he resumed his command in March of 1862. He took part in the Battle of Stones River and was severely wounded at the

Home of Gen. Joseph P. Palmer

Battle of Chickamauga. Following his recovery, he returned to duty and was commissioned a brigadier general on November 15, 1864. After the war, General Palmer returned to Murfreesboro and resumed the practice of law. He married Mrs. Margaret Mason, a widow whom he had met during the war, and built her an imposing brick mansion with wrought-iron trim and arched cornices on East Main Street. General Palmer died on November 4, 1890.

Gen. William Barksdale was born near Smyrna on August 21, 1821. His parents moved to the county in 1808 from Virginia. At the age of 16, William and his two brothers went to Mississippi where he studied law and was admitted to the bar before he had reached the age of 21. During the Mexican War, he entered the army as an enlisted man in the Second Mississippi Regiment and was soon appointed captain. In 1852 he was a delegate to the Democratic national convention, and in 1853 and 1857 was elected to the United States Senate. He resigned from this office following Mississippi's adoption of the Ordinance of Secession. When told by one of his northern colleagues that the South would not

be allowed to leave the Union, he answered, "Sir, the army that invades the South to subjugate her will never return; their bodies will enrich the southern soil."

In 1861 Barksdale was appointed quartermaster general of Mississippi, but he soon entered the regular army as a colonel in the 13th Mississippi Infantry. He fought at Manassas and in August of 1862 was elevated to the rank of brigadier general. His command took part in several major battles of the war including Sharpesville, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. He was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. In January of 1867, his body was returned to Mississippi and conveyed to the capitol in Jackson where it lay in state until the funeral. Few Mississippians have been so honored as was Barksdale. The "high court" adjourned, businesses closed, and endless lines of people filed through the rotunda to pay their last respects. The Historic Columbus Incorporation has placed a marker at the site of the plantation where he once lived.

Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott Featherston, born about four miles from Murfreesboro on August 8, 1819, was the son of Charles and Lucy Pitts Featherston—pioneers from Virginia. He attended various academies in Tennessee and Georgia and left school to fight in the war against the Creek Indians. He returned to Murfreesboro and attended Bradley Academy. Later he studied law and was admitted to the bar in Houston, Texas. He interrupted his legal career to serve in the United States Congress from 1847 to 1851, after which he returned to practicing law until the outbreak of the Civil War. In 1857 he moved to Holly Springs, Mississippi. His first wife, Mary Holt Harris of Columbus, Mississippi, died in 1848 a few years after their marriage. His second wife, Elizabeth McEwen, died in 1878 during an epidemic of yellow fever. He was elected colonel of the 17th Mississippi Regiment and saw service in Virginia during 1862. On March 4, 1862, he was elevated to brigadier general in recognition of his skill and gallantry in action. He fought at Gettysburg with Gen. Joseph Johnston in the Army of Tennessee. After the war, he returned to his law practice in Holly Springs, Mis-

sissippi and was involved in the political affairs of the state. He died at his home in Holly Springs in 1891.

Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch was born near Jefferson on November 11, 1811. His parents were Maj. Alexander McCulloch of North Carolina and Frances Le Noir of Virginia who came to Rutherford County around 1800 to take up land inherited by the Major. Alexander McCulloch is listed as one of the men who petitioned for the organization of Rutherford County. In the fall of 1820 he moved with his family to Alabama. Ben McCulloch was ten years of age at the time. He received very little schooling other than the practicalities of the frontier life. In 1846 he volunteered for service in the Mexican War. Throughout most of the war he commanded ranger units, and by the end of the conflict he was a national hero. By this time he was 36 years of age and had never married. He had said of himself, "I'm not handsome enough to marry to advantage." However, family members attributed his single state to his restless spirit and his unwillingness to settle down in one place.

From 1849 to 1852 he was sheriff of Sacramento, California. In 1852 he was appointed U.S. Marshall in Texas, and in 1858, a Federal commissioner to Utah. With the coming of the Civil War, he returned to Texas where he was commissioned a colonel and instructed to capture the Federal garrison at San Antonio. After carrying out these orders, McCulloch was appointed a brigadier general by President Davis of the Confederacy. He was sent to Missouri and Arkansas with orders to guard this territory from invasion by Union troops. At Pea Ridge near Elkhorn, Texas, Ben McCulloch, while riding ahead of his troops, was shot by a sharpshooter. To end in character, McCulloch, when carried from the battlefield, was wearing a black velvet suit, patent leather high-top boots, and a broad-brimmed Texas hat—certainly not the typical attire for an officer. He did not die on the battlefield but in a field hospital. When told by a physician that he had only a few moments to live, he looked up and said, "Oh, Hell." Then he turned his head and died. His body was carried 400 miles to Austin, Texas, where it lay in state in the Representative Hall until the burial.

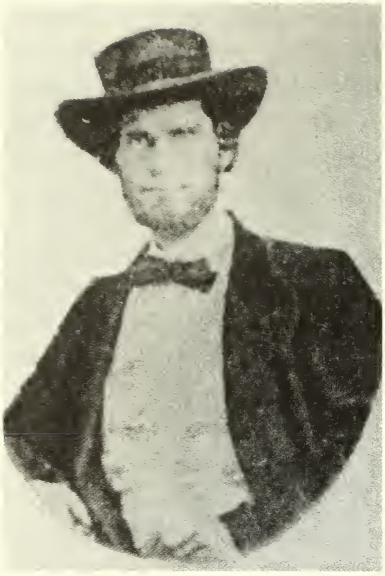
Henry Eustace McCulloch was born in Rutherford County on December 6, 1816, younger brother of Ben McCulloch. Henry moved to Texas in 1847 and served as the captain of a company of Texas rangers during the war with Mexico. He also was politically active in Texas, serving in the state legislature in 1853 and in the state senate in 1855. In 1859 President Buchanan appointed him U.S. marshal for the eastern district of Texas, an office he was occupying at the outbreak of the Civil War. His service to the Confederacy was almost entirely within the boundaries of Texas. He was commissioned a brigadier general on March 14, 1862. After the war he lived on his farm in Gaudalupe County, Texas, until his death on March 12, 1895.

The Coleman Scouts

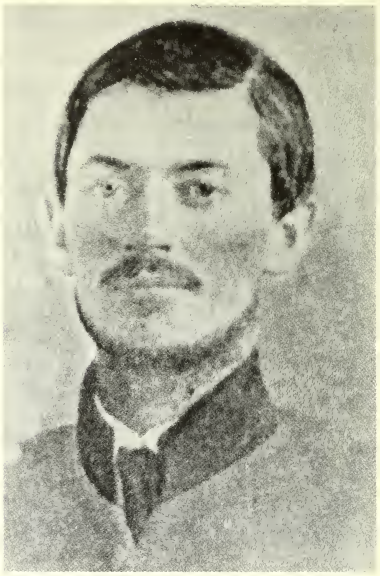
Several niches in the pantheon of Civil War heroes were filled by men from Rutherford County. The best-known of these was Smyrna's Sam Davis, a Coleman Scout, who was hanged at Pulaski, Tennessee, on November 27, 1863, under the charges of being a spy. Another hero was Dewitt Jobe, who was captured, tortured, and killed less than a mile from his home at Mechanicsville in Rutherford County. He, too, was a Confederate scout.

In the fall of 1862 Capt. Harry B. Shaw took over the command of a group of scouts that came to be known as the Coleman Scouts. Gen. Braxton Bragg, who had authorized the formation of the group, requested that all communications from Shaw should be signed "E. Coleman" to hide Shaw's real identity. The scouts wore the uniform of the Confederate soldier, and for identification carried passes signed by General Bragg. They were not spies. Their orders were to secure information regarding the plans and resources of the Union Army and relay this information to Bragg's headquarters. Captain Shaw, however, dressed as a civilian and posed as an herb doctor, a guise that permitted him to move about freely within the lines of both armies. Had he been captured with incriminating papers, undoubtedly he would have been executed as a spy.

The young men selected as members of this group came from various regiments and were chosen on the basis of demonstrated



Henry B. Shaw



Dewitt Jobe

bravery, loyalty, valor, courage under difficult circumstances, horsemanship, and familiarity with the Tennessee terrain. Several soldiers from Rutherford County were members of the group. Among them were Sam Davis and his half-brother John Davis, R. M. Dillard, Dewitt Jobe, William Roberts, Dewitt Smith, William Monfort Street, and perhaps others. The number of scouts making up the group fluctuated from time to time. It is thought that the total number of men involved with the group after its inception was approximately 100.

Headquarters for the scouts changed from time to time, but Shaw's main headquarters were in a farmhouse, owned by Clyde Schuler, at Campbellsville in Giles County. Here Shaw met his scouts and gave them information to be delivered to General Bragg. By the fall of 1863 most of Tennessee was in Federal hands, and the Coleman Scouts had become very effective in gathering information concerning military plans of the Union Army.

Gen. G. M. Dodge, the Union Commander of the 16th Army Corps had marched with his troops from Corinth, Mississippi,

on his way to join Grant in Chattanooga. He and his men were temporarily stationed in Pulaski, Tennessee. Aware of the increased activity of the Coleman Scouts, Dodge ordered his cavalry to keep a sharp lookout for them, and posted signs which offered a reward to anyone giving information that would lead to the arrest of their leader.

Sam Davis, who was 21 years of age in 1863, was the son of Charles Lewis and Jane Simmons Davis. The Davis family had moved to Rutherford County from Virginia around 1825, and Charles, who eventually acquired about 1000 acres of land, was considered to be a prosperous farmer. Sam attended the Stewart's Creek Seminary and the Walnut Grove School. In 1860 he enrolled in the Western Military Institute, Nashville (a forerunner of Montgomery Bell Academy). He enlisted in the Confederate Army on April 30, 1861, in Company I, First Regiment, Tennessee Voluntary Infantry. He was slightly wounded at Shiloh and also at Perryville, Kentucky. In the fall of 1863 he was assigned to Coleman's Scouts.

In early November of 1863 Davis came to the scout headquarters near Pulaski. Here he obtained food, rest, and lodging before he was to leave on his next scouting assignment. He had just visited his family in Smyrna for the last time. His mother had given him a Yankee overcoat whose shades of blue she had tried to change to grey with home-made dyes. Following his meeting with Shaw, Davis left Pulaski on November 19, 1863, to follow the scout lines to Decatur, Alabama, and from there to Bragg's headquarters in Chattanooga. He had in his possession Louisville, Nashville, and Cincinnati newspapers, soap, toothbrushes, and other toilet articles for General Bragg as well as detailed information regarding the Federal forces at Nashville and Pulaski. The military documents were hidden in the sole of one of his boots and in his saddle bags. Davis had traveled only a short distance before he came almost face to face with a small unit of Union cavalrymen, the "Kansas Jayhawkers," who had been scouring the countryside for Confederate scouts. Davis was searched and the military documents were found. Among these papers was a letter to Bragg signed by E. Coleman, Captain

The Sam Davis Home

Commanding Scouts. The accuracy of the information led General Dodge to suspect that there was a spy among the Federal engineers, and he was determined to force Davis to reveal the source from which he had obtained the documents. Davis was interrogated repeatedly but refused to divulge any information.

Davis was charged with being a spy and with carrying communications behind Union lines to persons in arms against the United States government. Davis pleaded not guilty to these charges. However, he was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged on November 27, 1863. Just before his execution, Davis was offered a full pardon, a horse, and sidearms, and conveyance to Confederate lines if he would divulge the source of his information. It was then that Davis uttered the famous words, well-known to most Rutherford Countians, "If I had a thousand lives to live, I would give them all rather than betray a friend or my country."

A few weeks later, the body of Sam Davis was disinterred and taken by friends to his home near Smyrna. It was said that Federal troops stood at attention while Davis' body was being removed and placed on the mule-drawn wagon. His body was buried

in the family cemetery at the rear of the home. A marble shaft marks the spot where it rests, and in 1899 a monument was erected in honor of Davis on the capitol grounds in Nashville.

By a strange coincidence, on the same day that Sam Davis was arrested and placed in jail in Pulaski, Shaw was captured and placed in the same cell with Davis. No evidence of recognition passed between the two men, and since no incriminating evidence against Shaw could be found, the leader of the scouts escaped the fate that befell Davis. General Dodge, however, was suspicious of "this old, seedy, awkward-looking man who claimed to be a doctor," and sent him to a Federal prison, Johnson's Island, located on Lake Erie. Shaw was held prisoner there until near the close of the war. Following his release, he and John Davis, half-brother to Sam, with financial assistance from Charles Davis, purchased an old steamboat which they renamed the "David White." They plied the rivers between Nashville and New Orleans carrying produce and passengers. On Sunday morning, February 17, 1867, the boiler of the vessel exploded and among the lives lost were those of John Davis and Henry B. Shaw.

Dewitt Jobe, the son of Elihu and Mary Smith Jobe, was born in Rutherford County on June 4, 1840. His father lived near Mechanicsville (now known as Big Springs) and was a cabinet maker. In his shop he made products such as plow points, wagon and buggy accessories, furniture, and coffins. Many of the older residents of Mechanicsville are buried in coffins fashioned by his hand, and in some of the older homes of Rutherford County furniture which he designed can still be found.

At the age of 21 Jobe enlisted in the 20th Tennessee Regiment of the Confederate Army. Wounded and captured at the Battle of Fishing Creek, he later took part in the Battle of Stones River. In late 1863 he became a member of the Coleman Scouts, and spent the spring and summer of 1864 scouting behind the Federal lines in Tennessee. On August 30, 1864, Jobe was in the vicinity of his home at Mechanicsville, sleeping in a thicket and awaiting darkness so that he might visit his parents. A group of 15 Yankees, under the command of Sergeant Temple of the 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry, surrounded and captured him. Real-

izing that his capture was imminent, Jobe destroyed some papers which he was carrying. In an effort to make Jobe divulge the contents of the papers they tortured him. They put out his eyes, cut out his tongue, and finally dragged him to his death. When his body was discovered and his parents were informed of the death of their son, an old black servant was sent to bring the body home. Jobe was buried in the family cemetery on a hillside overlooking the homeplace, a two-room structure with lean-tos added to the rear of the building. It has been reported that after the war the memory of the incident so preyed on Sergeant Temple's mind that he went insane.

The Reconstruction Years

Rutherford County, as well as other parts of the state, experienced acute economic and social upheavals following the Civil War. Farm lands had served as battlefields, buildings had been demolished, fences had been destroyed, and livestock had been carried away. Miles of the Nashville to Chattanooga railroad tracks had been torn up, and it was 1870 before the system was back in full operation. Confederate money was worthless, and families that had been leaders in industrial ventures in the prewar days were now impoverished. To complicate the situation, hundreds of blacks after emancipation were deprived of their livelihood on farms and plantations and were now adrift, homeless, and penniless. Former Confederate leaders were temporarily deprived of their right to vote, and suffrage was given to blacks and white men who had not supported the Confederacy and thereby had not been disfranchised. The city and county governments in Rutherford County had been suspended during 1863 and 1864, and elected officials were allowed to resume their duties only after taking the oath of allegiance to the United States.

The disfranchised leaders of the county employed various methods in efforts to find their way out of situations which they considered to be unbearable. They threatened blacks in attempts to keep them away from the polls. Secret societies, such as the Klu Klux Klan and the Pale Faces, were organized for the

purpose of terrorizing blacks and their white sympathizers. Late in 1868 a near riot occurred in Murfreesboro when a white radical was making a speech denouncing the white conservatives of the county. A Nashville black took the stand and added his violent denunciations to those of the speaker. A veteran of the Civil War intervened and knocked the man to the ground. As a result, the veteran was attacked by a number of blacks. Bricks were thrown, pistols were fired, and one black was killed during the demonstration.

Tennessee and Rutherford County escaped many of the bitter aspects of the Reconstruction period that came to other Confederate states and counties. Within a year after the war ended a sufficient number of Tennesseans had taken the oath of allegiance, to pave the way for Tennessee's reentry into the Union. Following the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment by the General Assembly, Tennessee was readmitted to the United States on July 24, 1866, a little more than one year after the close of the war and the assasination of President Lincoln.

The Late 1800s

Only minor educational, industrial, and economic advances were made in Rutherford County between 1870 and 1900. It was to be the turn of the century before the county would regain a semblance of the momentum which it had experienced during the prewar years. Murfreesboro had, however, extended its city limits to three-fourths of a mile from the public square, and the 1865 legislative act which brought about this extension also stipulated that the town would be divided into six wards with the alderman being required to live in the ward which he represented.

The educational picture in Rutherford County in the late 1800s was far from bright. Freedmen schools had been established in the county for the education of the blacks. These schools suffered from the same problems that troubled the white schools—poorly trained teachers, short school terms, and low salaries for school officials. In 1865 eight teachers were striving to teach 500 black students. In 1869 there were 36 schools in the county for

black students and 75 for white pupils with a total enrollent of 3600 students. One hundred twelve teachers were employed for the 111 schools, leading one to conclude that most of these schools were one-room schoolhouses.

In 1882 the superintendent of Rutherford County Schools was paid $300 annually, and teachers received $27.50 per month. In 1888 the tax for school purposes was a $1.00 poll tax and 30¢ per $100 worth of property. Ten teacher institutes, financed partly by the Peabody Educational Fund of 1874, had been organized within the state, with one of them being located in Murfreesboro.

The Secondary School Act passed by the state legislature in 1890 encouraged the development of high schools within the state. Within a short time, there were 18 public and private high schools in Rutherford County. Among these were Eagleville, Fosterville, Smyrna, Walter Hill, Murfreesboro, Hermitage, Cedar Hill, Oakland, Porterfield, Kingwood, the Seventh District High School, and the 11th District High School. There were several seminaries in the county which operated for high school age students—Murfreesboro Seminary for Girls, Stewart's Creek Seminary, Milton Seminary, Rucker Seminary, Salem Seminary, and Lascassas Seminary.

Several national religious groups, among them Baptist, Methodists, and Presbyterians, had split during the Civil War over the question of slavery, thus forming northern and southern branches of their denominations. Most of the churches in Rutherford County joined the southern branches. The postwar period saw the rise of black churches within the county. Before the war, the slaves had worshipped in the same church as their masters; after the war the question arose concerning what to do with the black members. Many blacks remained in the white churches until their deaths, while others organized their own churches. There are many fine black churches in the county, but among the largest and most outstanding are: Allen's Chapel, a branch of the African Methodist church; the Key Memorial Church, organized on February 18, 1866; the East State Church of Christ; and the Mount Zion Baptist Church. Perhaps the larg-

Marshall Keeble

est black church in the county is the First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, organized in 1866.

One of the most outstanding black preachers in Murfreesboro was Marshall Keeble who was born on December 7, 1878, in a log cabin on the Bradyville Pike. His parents, Robert and Mittie Keeble, were former slaves. As a young man, Marshall began working in The Bucket Factory and later in a soap factory. In 1906 he married Virginia Womack, a graduate of the high school department of Fisk University. Together the two of them opened a small grocery store. It is not known exactly when Marshall began preaching, but in 1914 he decided to become a full-time preacher. Keeble lived to become a Church of Christ preacher of national and international fame. He was the first black man ever to be named "Colonel" on the honorary staff of a Tennessee

Reminder of Rutherford County's first industry

governor. He was also named honorary chief of one of the largest Nigerian tribes. By 1930 he had preached in nearly every state in the Union. In 1940 he became president of the Nashville Christian Institute, although his educational training never went beyond the seventh grade. In 1962 he took his ministry to Nigeria. A scholarship has been established in his honor at David Lipscomb College in Nashville.

One might say that Rutherford County's entry into the industrial world came with the opening of The Bucket Factory in 1857 by John C. Spence. This company was forced to operate on a limited scale during the Civil War. After the war, it became the property of William Lytle Patterson, a descendant of Capt. William Lytle. Under the Patterson ownership, it became known as the Red Cedar Woodenware Company. In addition to buckets, this plant produced churns, dippers, bowls, pencil slats, and oil of cedar. In 1887, as a promotional gimmack, a large cedar bucket was constructed which measured six feet in height, six feet in diameter at the bottom, and seven feet in diameter at the top.

Its capacity was estimated at 1800 gallons. Said to be the largest cedar bucket in the world, it was displayed in 1892 at the Chicago's World Fair and supposedly won a blue ribbon. At the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904 it was leased by a brewery and filled with beer which was dispensed free to fairgoers. A promenade, which was built around the bucket to allow easy access to its contents, was described as "the most popular walkway at the fair."

Another Rutherford County business venture, which indicated that at least three citizens were optimistic about the level of recovery, was the Murfreesboro Street Railway established in 1892 by P. P. Mason, B. L. Ridley, and T. B. Fowler. This company, with its eight cars, 24 mules, terminal barns, and some three miles of track lasted only a year and according to one historian "lost money every day it operated."

P. P. Mason and B. L. Ridley, however, were not to be intimidated by the failure of the street car venture, because in 1892 they, along with Dr. J. E. Thompson, started the Murfreesboro Water Works. Sometime later, they began the laying of sewer lines within the city.

A handbook of the 1886 Rutherford County Fair Association carried advertisements of the various business operations found in the county in the late 1800s. Among these was the W. B. Earthman Red Cedar Lumber Company, which produced millions of cedar slats a year to be sent to Germany and returned to the United States as pencils. By this time Rutherford County had become a cedar market of great importance, surpassing perhaps any other area in the country in the production of cedar lumber. The chief American markets for Rutherford County's cedar lumber were St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Indianapolis.

Other business concerns mentioned in the handbook were: Ransom and Perkins Lumber Company; George Walters, carriage manufacturer, located on the corner of Lebanon and College Streets and Adam Bock, manufacturer and repairer of carriages; R. Blanton, wagon and plow maker; J. T. Wilson, cotton ginner; A. M. Cawthon, cooking and heating stoves; Shearin and Leach, contractors and builders; Sol Tobias, a clothier, lo-

cated under the old Opera House, and John Guy, boot and shoe maker; Osborn and Company, bakery; the Fine Tonsorial Parlor, J. and T. Sublett, properietors, located in the Jordan House; the Champion Saloon on the northeast side of the square, W. M. Murphy, proprietor; the Jordan House, recently opened and elegantly furnished; the Nelson House on the northwest corner of the square, offering fine old wines and brandies; the Miles Hotel on the south side of the square; John Bell, Jr., insurance; William Wendell, druggist; Alex Hartman, dentist; and J. L. Cannon and P. P. Mason, attorneys.

Two banks listed in the handbook were The First National Bank, E. L. Jordan, president—capital $100,000, surplus $50,000; and the Stones River National Bank, William Mitchell, president. Two newspapers which sponsored advertisements in the 1886 Fair Handbook were *The Free Press*, a Democratic newspaper with Reese K. Henderson as publisher, and *The Murfreesboro News*, W. C. Forest, Proprietor. Subscriptions were $1.00 per year.

On April 3, 1873, the city of Murfreesboro concluded a deal with James Maney for the purchase of 20 acres of land for the opening of a city cemetery. Located in the vicinity of Oaklands, this newly-established burial place was named Evergreen.

In the late 1800s Rutherford County remained chiefly agricultural in its economy. The effort toward organizing labor unions in various other parts of the nation had little effect on the county. However, during this period farmers in the county began to organize to improve their conditions. They had been forced to borrow money at high rates of interest and transportation costs and taxes remained high. At the same time the prevalent policy of high tariffs held down the price of farm products while the price on many of the things which farmers had to purchase rose.

The Farmer's Alliance, a group dedicated toward improving the lot of farmers, got control of the Democratic Convention preceding the gubernatorial election of 1890 and nominated John Price Buchanan of Rutherford County as their candidate. Buchanan, an active member in the Farmer's Alliance, was elected by a vote of 126, 348 to 70,081 over his Republican opponent. Born

John Price Buchanan

October 24, 1847, the governor was the son of William Thomas and Rebecca Jane Shannon Buchanan. He attended school in Williamson County and at the age of 16 enlisted in Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry. After his service in the Civil War, he moved to Rutherford County. On his 20th birthday he married Frances McGill. At the age of 40, he was elected to represent Rutherford County in the lower house of the state legislature. He began his term as governor in January of 1891. Although he accomplished very little in solving the problems of farmers, his administration was significant for the establishing of secondary schools, lengthening the school term, organizing teacher institutes, setting up a pension for Confederate soldiers, and putting an end to the practice of leasing convicts for labor.

On January 15, 1898, the battleship Maine was sunk in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. This incident led to a formal decla-

ration of war against Spain by the United States government. When the call went out for volunteers, a full platoon was raised in Rutherford County but their service in the brief war amounted to little more than a period of training and a trip overseas.

The population of Rutherford County continued its increase and by 1880 was 36,714. By 1900, the population had decreased to 33,543. This loss was attributed to large numbers of the black population leaving Rutherford County and moving into northern states,

Into a New Century

The new century found at least a few Rutherford County citizens still clinging to nostalgic memories of the Civil War and their beloved Confederate veterans. Among such groups were the J. B. Palmer Bivouac, the Ladies Memorial Association, and the Sons of Veterans. These groups had been given permission to erect a Confederate monument on the lawn of the courthouse. The bronze monument featured Johnny Reb poised menacingly atop a pedestal in battle stance and facing East Main Street. Later, the monument was moved to what was considered to be a more appropriate location on the northeast corner of the lawn where the infantryman faced the north symbolically poised as if to repel an invasion.

Heralding the new century was the appearance on the public square during the summer of 1900 of the first automobile to be owned by a Rutherford Countian. The one-seated, lever-guided vehicle, driven by George Darrow or James Reed, created quite a sensation as it moved about among the buggies and wagons that cluttered the square during this season of the year. With the development of paved roads, this new mode of transportation was to put an end to horse-drawn vehicles.

By 1901 Murfreesboro had become a well-lighted city with electricity being furnished by a plant established a few years earlier by Jim Perry, but now the property of Dr. J. H. Reed. In 1919 George Beesley, J. C. Beesley, and R. B. Roberts purchased the concern. They improved and enlarged the plant, eventually sell-

ing it to the Tennessee Electric Power Company which continued its operation until the coming of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Today Murfreesboro has its own distributing system, and the county areas are served mainly by the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation.

The county experienced one of the most devastating floods in its history on March 28, 1902. The rushing waters of Stones River and its tributaries tore down buildings, fences, telegraph and telephone lines, swept away bridges, and drowned livestock. It took months to restore and repair damaged property.

From the time of the establishment of Rutherford County in 1803, the village saloon had been a feature of community life in the various sections of the county. Jefferson had supported six such establishments, and during the capital years in Murfreesboro there were at least 14 saloons on the public square. In 1903, after one-hundred years of the free flow of "spirits," the county became dry. The sale of beer remained legal until 1945 when the City Council of Murfreesboro banned its sale within the corporate limits. Following a successful referendum during the same year, the sale of beer was reinstituted in the city with certain restrictions. In 1972, following a third referendum, the sale of liquor again became legal within the city.

In the early 1900s, two new newspapers made their appearance—the *News Banner* and the *Home Journal*. *The News Banner*, with C. C. Henderson as publisher, came about as a consolidation of the *Murfreesboro News* and the *Independent Banner*. In 1911 J. R. Williams bought the *News Banner* and continued its publication until he sold it to Jesse C. Beesley in 1927, who converted the paper to a daily. The *Home Journal*, which had been established by Chip Henderson, was bought in 1898 by Louis Burgdorf, who continued its publication until his death in 1920. The plant was then sold to Andrew L. Todd and W. H. Trevathon, who published the paper as a weekly for six or eight years. Jesse C. Beesley bought an interest in the *Home Journal* in 1931 and consolidated the two papers, the *News Banner* and the *Home Journal*, into the present-day *Daily News Journal*.

Two other outstanding business institutions that were orga-

Jeanette Moore King

nized in the early 1900s were the Murfreesboro Bank and Trust Company, which opened in 1905 with B. F. Moore as president, and the Commerce Union Bank which was organized in 1925.

The year 1900 found Jeanette Moore King the superintendent of the Rutherford County schools. Not only was Miss King the first woman elected to public office in Rutherford County, but she was the first woman county superintendent in the state of Tennessee. Miss King's predecessor, N. D. Overall, described as the "most zealous and successful superintendent in the history of Rutherford County," had received an annual salary of $400. Upon her election to the same office Miss King was informed that she would receive $300 annually. One of her greatest accomplishments during her tenure was the drafting, under the auspices of the Public School Officers, of a resolution requesting the establishment of a high school in each county of the state. This resolution was favorably received by the legislature. Following her tenure as county superintendent, Miss King was di-

rector of physical training at Peabody College of the University of Nashville and later a member of the first faculty of the Normal school in Murfreesboro in 1911. In 1922 she resigned from the Normal and again became superintendent of schools for Rutherford County.

The Mooney School, noted for its high standards and outstanding athletic program, was organized in 1902 by W. D. Mooney in Franklin, Tennessee. When the original building was destroyed by fire during the first year of operation, Mooney decided to move the school to Murfreesboro. In Murfreesboro the school was located on East Main Street where it operated for seven years. The boys who attained this institution went on to college and made impressive records. They were accepted by prestigious universities such as Vanderbilt, Yale, West Point, and Princeton. The building, now occupied by the Louisa Developmental Center, was the home of the Mooneys during their stay in Murfreesboro, and two frame buildings, erected on these grounds, served as dormitories for the boys. The 1904 records showed an enrollment of 135 students with four teachers. After the Mooney School ceased operations around 1910, the school building was taken over by Rutherford County and operated as East End School for a number of years.

The black schools worked along with the other schools in the area to improve the status of education. One of the most outstanding of these was Bradley School which opened its doors in 1889 with 250 pupils and three teachers. Its first principal was F. G. Carney who labored zealously for 32 years to build a school which would serve the community in a fine manner. During the first 33 years only the elementary grades were represented in the school, but later the junior high was added. Professor P. S. Jones was named principal in 1918, and as the enrollment increased plans were made for a new building and the addition of a high school department. It was Jones who was responsible for organizing the high school classes. The Bradley School eventually separated from the high school department which evolved into Holloway High School, named for E. C. Holloway, a city

attorney who had worked for the establishment of the secondary school.

In 1904, an educational commission was appointed by the Tennessee Baptist Convention to seek a location for the establishment of a college for women. Murfreesboro was chosen as the site for the proposed institution with the stipulation that the building would be erected on the grounds of the former Union University. The old Union building, which had stood vacant since the late 1880s, had been vandalized and had suffered all the hazards of an abandoned building. The John Haywood Eaton tomb, defaced and neglected, stood among tall grass and weeds near the entrance to the former university. In 1907, upon completion of the Tennessee College building, the Eaton mausoleum was moved to Evergreen Cemetery and it is there that the bodies of Haywood and Esther Eaton are now interred.

The enrollment of Tennessee College during its first year of operation was 179, with 31 of these being boarding students. The next few years saw an increase in enrollment and improvements in facilities and instruction. In 1911 the college dropped its elementary department and became a four-year institution conferring the Bachelor of Arts degree upon its graduates. The college suffered a setback during the World War I period, and later during the depression years, it suffered severe financial difficulties. These financial problems continued to plague the institution until it was forced to close its doors in July of 1946. The grounds and the building were then purchased by Rutherford County, and Central High School was erected upon the site.

When the legislature passed the General Education Act of 1909 many areas of the public school system were to derive benefits. A considerable increase in funds set aside for elementary schools was included in the bill. One provision of the act stipulated that any county that would levy a 50¢ school tax could share in a state equalization fund that would provide an eight-month school term. Rutherford accepted this proposition, and by 1930 the total outlay for schools in the county was $163,139.00 as compared to $42,190 available in 1907.

One important aspect of this general education bill was the

Kirksey Old Main, Middle Tennessee State University

provision it made for the establishment of three normal schools for the training of teachers—one to be located in each of the three grand divisions of the state. Competition for the location of these schools was very intense. Andrew Todd of Murfreesboro, a member of the State Board of Education, led the effort to secure the Middle Tennessee Normal for Rutherford County. It was primarily through his efforts that the school was located in Murfreesboro.

The Murfreesboro Normal, which opened on September 11, 1911, with R. L. Jones as president, consisted of four buildings—an administration building, a dining hall, a central heating plant and a girls' dormitory. The opening enrollment was 175 students. By 1925 the institution was offering courses leading to four years of work on a college level, and at that time its name was changed to Middle Tennessee State Teachers College. In 1930 the State Board of Education designated the institution a state teachers' college. By 1941, through the expansion of its curriculum, the institution had dropped the teachers' nomenclature and became the Middle Tennessee State College.

In the spring of 1951 the state board of education approved

the organization of a graduate division of Middle Tennessee State College. Dr. Howard Kirksey was appointed director of the program which was to begin with the summer quarter of 1951. By the spring of 1952, 138 students were enrolled in graduate work. Quinton M. Smith, president of the college at the time, expanded the curriculum to include a fifth-year degree with a major in education and minors in English, social studies, industrial arts, or science.

In 1958 President Smith retired and Dr. Quill E. Cope was named his successor. During Dr. Cope's administration the school was reorganized into four undergraduate schools, the School of Basic and Applied Sciences, the School of Education, the School of Business, and the School of Liberal Arts. In July of 1965 the college, by action of the state legislature, was elevated to university status.

Following the resignation of Dr. Cope in the spring of 1968, Dr. Melvin Scarlett was appointed president of the university. Both the enrollments and the variety of programs grew rapidly as the institution assumed the new role of university. Many staff members were recruited from diverse locales, lessening the institution's provincialism. The Doctor of Arts program was added in 1970 and the Specialist of Education in 1974.

Dr. Sam H. Ingram became the institution's sixth president in 1979. Dr. Ingram had previously been a member of the faculty and had served as dean of education. Under his leadership the institution now serves as a regional university, offering services and continuing education to Middle Tennesseans. During the fall of 1984 over 11,300 students were in attendance at the university.

On March 21, 1913, certain parts of Rutherford County were devastated by a tornado blowing in from the southwestern part of the county. It left in its path demolished buildings, death, and general destruction. Upon reaching Murfreesboro, it cut a swath through the business district, damaging the courthouse, several buildings on the square, and a nearby church. No one in the city was killed as a result of the storm, and only one person was in-

jured. Hal Jones, a horse trainer, suffered a broken leg when a livery stable on Walnut Street was demolished.

When President Woodrow Wilson issued the proclamation of war on April 2, 1917, plans were made immediately in Rutherford County to establish a Selective Service Board. Members appointed to this board were: Dr. B. N. White, chairman; J. T. Wrather, secretary; and E. E. Loughry. Either as a result of enlistment or induction, the county sent some 1177 men to serve in World War I—83 sailors, 22 marines, and 1072 army men. Records show that 44 men were killed or died while in service, and 39 were wounded in action. One Rutherford Countian, Lt. James A. Ridley, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Mrs. G. S. Ridley was Rutherford County's only Five-Star mother—having four sons and a daughter in the service. When news came of the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, Rutherford County citizens responded with wild enthusiasm. They gathered on the public square while whistles blew, bands played, and flags waved. Barrels of free apples were placed on the corners of the square , and merchants left their shops to join in the celebration. A German doll, representing the Kaiser, was placed in a reclining position with buffalo nickels on its eyes in the window of Bell's Jewelry Store.

Rutherford County entered the 1920s with some degree of prosperity. The outbreak of World War I had brought about an increased demand from European countries for farm products. This demand caused the price of farm land and farm produce to rise, and for a time the county experienced an improvement in its economy. Also, Rutherford County farmers no longer depended solely on the money crops of pre-Civil War years for their livelihood. With the aid of agricultural and home demonstration agents as well as help from the University of Tennessee's experimental farm, they had diversified and improved their farming methods. The production of beef cattle and dairy herds had added to the income of farmers.

A handbook, published in 1922 by the Mutual Realty and Loan Company, gives insight into the industrial concerns that were in operation in Rutherford County at that time. The Ruth-

erford County Creamery was producing 1,800,000 pounds of butter annually while the Consumers Supply Company manufactured ice cream and cold drinks. Christy and Huggins operated a combined ice factory and Coca Cola bottling works. The output of the Sunshine Hosiery Mills, which employed 200 people, was 12,000 pairs of hose daily; and fifty dozen women's wash dresses were manufactured daily by Elrod and Hargis Company, while the Putnam Overall Manufacturing Company operated 150 machines which turned out a complete line of working men's clothes. The Easy-On Lace-Boot, a cover for automobile tires, was manufactured by the Tennessee Rubber Company. Five concerns in Rutherford County were manufacturing and shipping carload lots of cedar products and there were four wholesale and retail lumber companies. The county now produced about 500,000 bales of cotton yearly and Ransom and Brothers served as wholesale cotton dealers. There were several wholesale grocery businesses, including Henry King and Company and Ragland, Potter, and Company. The Carnation Milk Plant, one of the county's most important industries, opened in 1927. Located on the Lytle property just to the rear of the present-day Haynes Brothers Supply Company, within a year it was producing 200,000 pounds of milk daily.

The development of a number of clubs at this time, including Elks, Rotary, Kiwanis, Professional Women's, and golf and country clubs, indicated the level of cultural and civic activities. The Murfreesboro Women's Club, organized in 1916, purchased and converted an old colonial home on East College into a clubhouse where members gathered for social affairs and programs of current interest.

The Rutherford County Hospital, now known as the Middle Tennessee Medical Center, was organized in 1925 through the efforts of S. B. Christy, Sr., other interested citizens, and the Commonwealth Fund of New York. By 1929 the county had a health department, with a full-time health officer, an assistant health officer, a supervisor of nurses, seven field health nurses, two sanitation officers, and two clerks. Funds to operate this department came from the county, the city of Murfreesboro, and

the state. Since the Rutherford County Health Department had assumed obligations to provide field training for students from the Vanderbilt Schools of Medicine and Nursing, the Commonwealth Fund of New York was willing to provide the county with a building to house these activities. This building, which opened in 1931, is located on North Church Street and is known as the Rutherford County Health Department.

Other developments in the county that indicated some semblance of prosperity were the erection of the James K. Polk Hotel, renovation of the courthouse, the completion of a modern filtration plant, completion of sewage lines, and the daily trips made to Nashville by bus and truck lines. One of the most spectacular developments in Rutherford County was the opening of an airport called Sky Harbor in 1929. People came from miles around to witness the aerial performances by Jimmy Doolittle and other aviators. This airport continued its operation until the Berry Field was opened in Nashville some years later.

The Rutherford County Fair Association continued its policy of holding annual fairs and awarding prizes for outstanding exhibits in various areas such as fine horses, cattle, farm products, etc. One enticing award was a handsome new iron cooking stove to be given by Phillips and Buttorff of Nashville to the lady who took the most ribbons in the cooking competition. By now airplanes were landing near the fair grounds and taking a courageous few for short rides, enabling them to view for the first time their county's terrain from a different perspective.

One of the most dramatic events that occurred during the mid-1920s was the visit to Murfreesboro by the "Human Fly," a daredevil steeplejack, who had just completed a successful scaling of the Woolworth Building in New York City. His objective in Murfreesboro was a nocturnal ascent of the courthouse building. The expected fee for this climb was $50. After a day of solicitations, his collections amounted to only $13.50; however, he decided to proceed. He successfully reached the dome, and in the glare of a fire engine beacon waved to the crowd below. After taking only a few steps in his descent, he slipped and fell to his

death on the roof of the building. He was buried in the indigent area of Evergreen Cemetery.

The Depression

On October 29, 1929, the stock market collapsed and the panic that followed closed banks, factories, shops, and offices. There was a steep decline in employment and the plight of farmers, already in dire straits, worsened rapidly.

During the early 1930s Rutherford County citizens began to feel the effects of the worldwide depression, but they were also able to profit from legislation enacted by Congress. A Civilian Conservation Corps was encamped at the western edge of Murfreesboro and provided employment opportunities for young men in the country in forestation projects. WPA workers laid the concrete sidewalks that today surround the courthouse and assisted in other public works programs. TVA projects related to flood control, navigation, the generation of electricity, and the preservation and conservation of land resources were organized. The TVA also provided employment for a vast number of workers. Hot lunch programs were instituted in all county schools, insuring one hot meal a day to needy children.

Rutherford County with its agrarian economic base did not suffer the degree of widespread suffering that came to other parts of the country. Perhaps the most disturbing event was the closing of the First National Bank; however, a high percentage of the deposits held by the bank were repaid by bank officials and no Rutherford County citizen suffered a great loss. Mortgage foreclosures did occur and one insurance company reported that it had repossessed 27 homes. The education systems in the county had difficulty in meeting their payrolls and teachers were forced to discount their warrants at rates from ten to thirty per cent. P. A. Lyon, president of Middle Tennessee State Teachers College at the time, was able to keep his faculty intact by establishing a small loan fund which enabled his personnel to purchase food and other necessities. Local banks arranged loans, accepting anticipated warrants as security. Roosevelt's New

Deal, and the fact that the county's main industry was farming, helped to ward off dire hunger and suffering.

World War II

Rutherford County soon braced itself for World War II. The first local registration was held on October 16, 1940, with Joe Frank Herrod recorded as the first registrant to enter training. The Headquarters Battery of the 115th Field Artillery, which had been organized in Rutherford County, left for Camp Jackson at Tullahoma, Tennessee, on September 16, 1940. Officers of the battery were Lt. Hubert McCullough, Maj. J. A. Sanders, Maj. Robert Braswell, Capt. William Wood, Capt. W. B. Carlton, Jr., and Capt. James D. Parks.

In 1942 the Smyrna Air Force Base, a troop carrier facility, was established in Rutherford County. The designation was later changed to Sewart Air Force Base in honor of Capt. Harold Sewart who had lost his life in the European theater. The base retained this name until its closure in 1970.

In 1941 Middle Tennessee, because of the similarity of its physical features to those of the European terrain, was designated by army personnel as a "maneuver training area." Twenty-nine full divisions involving about 600,000 men took part in these training exercises which were conducted in an area covering 21 Middle Tennessee counties, the northern part of Alabama, and a part of southern Kentucky. Gen. George Patton with his armored division was on maneuvers here in 1941, and Lt. Gen. Leslie McNair, who was later killed in the Normandy invasion, was also involved in training exercises in this area. The infantry, artillery, rangers, signal corps, and armored divisions all took part in these exercises. The rangers who scaled the heights at Point du Hoe during the Normandy invasion, one of the most difficult assignments during that action, were trained in Rutherford County.

The usual procedure was to assign the men to the maneuver area for a period of one month, two weeks of offensive action and two weeks of defensive activities. As a result of the large number of soldiers who took part in these training exercises,

coupled with the men assigned to Sewart Air Force Base, Rutherford County was swamped with requests for housing by families of the military personnel. Murfreesboro's proximity to Camp Forrest at Tullahoma also complicated the situation. Rutherford County citizens met this challenge and opened their homes to the military. Other challenges, such as ration books, black-out drills, and shortages of many articles were met in like manner.

Rutherford County provided over 4000 men for service in World War II, and out of this number 96 lost their lives. To honor these men, as well as those who lost their lives in World War I, a monument has been erected to their memory and placed on the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn. The monument, enclosed by an iron fence, bears the names of those who died in the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts as well as the two world wars.

Incorporation

In addition to Murfreesboro, three other Rutherford County towns are incorporated—Smyrna, La Vergne, and Eagleville. Smyrna and La Vergne, located in the northwestern part of the county, have been the fastest growing sections in the county during the last few years. This is due, in part, to the industries that have located in these two towns and to citizens of Davidson County who have moved into that area to escape problems of urban living that have plagued the Metro system for several years.

Smyrna

The first settlement near what is now Smyrna was probably made in the Stewart's Creek area around 1800 by William Adkerson, Owen Edwards, John Etta, Thomas Howell, and Thomas Nelson. The records indicate that William H. Davis purchased land in this vicinity in 1810, and donated the acreage on which the original Smyrna Presbyterian church was erected. This church received its name, Smyrna, from one of the seven churches mentioned in the Apocalypse of St. John. By 1820 the church, aided by Reverend Samuel Hodge in procedures of organization, was officially recognized by the presbytery. Many of the original

members of this religious body came from an earlier Presbyterian church that had been located at Jefferson.

Perhaps the most significant event that stimulated the growth of Smyrna in the 1800s was the coming of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. Railway officials in 1851 established a way station at Smyrna to better serve the marketing and transportation needs of wealthy plantation owners in the county and nearby areas.

Smyrna was often in the path of Northern and Southern troops during the Civil War as these armies advanced either to or from Nashville. Many cavalry raids were made in this vicinity by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. The boyhood home of Sam Davis, Smyrna's Civil War hero, is located in the Stewart's Creek area and is a tourist attraction of great importance.

A private school system began to develop in the Smyrna area around 1850, but by 1910 most of these schools were closed, and education was under the control of a Rutherford County board. The Smyrna High School, a private school at first, was organized in 1894 as an outgrowth of the Smyrna Fitting School which was originally established as a finishing school for elementary stu-

dents. This private school ceased operations in 1910, and the county board acquired the property. Additions were made to the building in 1912, and in 1921 the frame building was replaced by a stone structure that could better house the elementary and high school age students who were in attendance. In March of 1932 the stone building burned and the county board replaced the building.

When the Sewart Air Force Base opened in Smyrna in 1942 a serious shortage of classrooms developed. Additions were made to the 1932 building, but large enrollments and crowded conditions continued. In 1959 the Board of Education purchased property on Hazelwood Drive and constructed a modern high school building. The stone building of 1932 continued to be used for a short time by elementary students. Due to the rapid growth of population in the Smyrna area it became necessary to construct other school buildings, including the John Coleman School, the Thurman Francis Junior High School, the Smyrna Elementary School, the Smyrna Primary School, and the Smyrna West School.

Farming is perhaps the most important industry in the Smyrna area but the town is rapidly becoming an important manufacturing center. Among the factories located at Smyrna are the Better-Bilt Aluminum Company which employs about 600 workers and makes storm doors and windows; the Swiss Maid Food Incorporation; Capitol International Airways which schedules air service and employs about 1000 people; the Tridon Company which turns out windshield wiper blades, gear clamps, and signal flashers; Greer-Smyrna, a manufacturer of nuts for metal working industries which employs about 185 persons; and the latest industry, the Nissan Manufacturing Motor Company, a Japanese concern that makes light trucks. In March 1984, more than 1800 people were employed at the plant. The First National Bank of Rutherford County, which emerged from the Bank of Smyrna in 1904, is one of the strongest banks in the county. During the 79 years of its existence it has survived two world wars, a depression, crop failures, and other problems incidental to banking.

The town's weekly newspaper, *The Courier*, is one of the oldest newspapers in the county and serves a Smyrna population that now exceeds 10,000.

Smyrna was first incorporated on December 10, 1869, with a mayor, five aldermen, a town constable, and a treasurer comprising the officials. They were elected to fill their offices for a term of one year. On May 5, 1915, a second charter was granted to the town at which time a mayor-commission type of government was adopted with officials elected to serve for two years. Present officials include Sam Ridley, mayor, and Sam Griffin, Paul Johns, Frank Jones, Jr., and Kenneth Victory, as commissioners.

La Vergne

La Vergne, Tennessee, was named for Francis Leonard de Roulhac de La Vergne. Roulhac was born in France on March 15, 1767, and upon coming to America he settled in the northwestern part of Rutherford County and changed his name to Francis Roulhac. The town was not officially named La Vergne until after his death in 1852. With the coming of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad in 1851 La Vergne developed into a busy freight station. This growth has continued and today the town's population exceeds 5500.

Since 1960 school enrollment has grown faster than classrooms could be provided. The present elementary school with its 16 classrooms houses the kindergarten through the fifth grade. The new Roy Waldron Junior High School is one of the most modern in the county.

La Vergne has been incorporated three times—the first in 1860, then 1925, and the last time in 1972. The town has a mayor and commissioner type of government. The present mayor is Vester Waldron, and the commissioners are Phillip Mankin, Jack Moore, and A. C. Puckett, Jr.

Interchange City, an industrial park developed by Robert McDowell, is located in La Vergne and includes several large companies. The largest of these is the Bridgestone Tire Manufacturing Company. Bridgestone acquired an existing Firestone plant in January of 1983 for a sum of $52 million. The Japanese

based company makes steel-belted radial truck tires and is a main supplier for the Nissan truck plant in Smyrna. Presently Bridgestone employs approximately 1200 workers.

One of the most interesting and unique aspects of community life in La Vergne is the cultural exchange which is carried on with La Vergne, France, a city located in southern France in the province of Lot. Dignitaries and other interested citizens of the two La Vergnes exchange visits and are introduced to the culture of the respective communities. In 1982 the mayor of La Vergne, France, Andre Counard, and 40 of his countrymen were guests of La Vergne, Tennessee, for six days. They were taken to the Grand Ole Opry, the Shelbyville Walking Horse Show, and other points of interest. In return a group of 23 Rutherford Countians, most from La Vergne and Murfreesboro, and La Vergne mayor, A. C. Puckett, visited their "sister town"in France. They stayed in the French homes of La Vergne during their stay and visited additional European cities, such as London and Paris, in the course of the three-week tour.

Eagleville

Absalom Scales and his wife Nancy moved into what is now Eagleville around 1790. With the aid of his slaves, Scales built a four-room house using yellow poplar and limestone rocks brought to the building site by ox cart. The house was surrounded by 600 acres of rolling, fertile land which Scales had bought and cleared himself. Later, the original house was enlarged and covered with brick. Today this home, one of the oldest in Rutherford County, is occupied by descendants of Absalom Scales. It is truly one of the landmarks of Rutherford County. Among other early settlers in the Eagleville comunity were the families of James Gillespie, William Jordan, James Shepherd, George White, Robert White, and Robert Wilson.

One of the most bizarre happenings in the Eagleville community was connected with Dr. C. R. Heimark, a physician who came to the small town in 1895. Citizens of the community became aware that Dr. Heimark was making nocturnal visits to Nashville, always returning by dawn in time to resume his med-

The Absalom Scales home, one of the oldest houses in the county

ical practice. After the discovery of two empty graves, Eagleville citizens began to suspect that the reason for Dr. Heimark's trips was connected with the disappearance of the bodies. Family members began to hang lighted lanterns around freshly-dug graves of their loved ones. State officials began an investigation into the matter, and it was confirmed that Dr. Heimark had indeed been selling bodies to medical schools. In fact, two bodies had been shipped to Burlington, Vermont, in boxes labeled books. Dr. Heimark was brought to trial, fined $150, and sentenced to six months in jail. This incident brought about the passage of a state law in 1899 making it a felony to rob a grave, punishable by two to five years in prison.

Eagleville was originally called Manchester but since there was another Tennessee town already named Manchester, citizens of the community felt that the name should be changed. A legend says that about this time a large eagle was killed by Chesley Williams in the hills behind the village and as a result of this incident, the small settlement came to to be called Eagleville.

Eagleville was incorporated on March 31, 1949, with a mayor and council members as the governing body. At the present, Fred

Hobbs serves the community as mayor, and the council members are Benny Bolden, Frank Brent, Terry Cunningham, Don Hendrix, Jack McCall, and Don Wilson.

The best-known early school in Eagleville was the Savage School, a chartered four-year coeducational college as well as a preparatory school. There were 178 students enrolled in the school in 1887. By 1890 the college had evolved into Eagleville High School, a private school that in the early 1900s was to come under the control of the Rutherford County Board of Education. In 1915 the county erected a two-story concrete and stucco building to house the increasing school population. This structure burned in 1923 and was replaced with the present building.

Perhaps the most important industry in the Eagleville community is farming, with tobacco being one of the main crops. For many years the Owens Tobacco Company of Eagleville did a thriving business.

Among Eagleville's outstanding citizens are Madison Redd Hughes who tried to join Forrest's Raiders at the age of 13. General Forrest sent him home, but Hughes served as a self-appointed scout during the Civil War, reporting on any Union activities that took place near his hometown of Eagleville. Later in life he became a renowned Civil War lecturer and was invited to speak at the Tennessee Centennial in Nashville in 1896, the Louisiana Purchase Centennial in St. Louis in 1904, and in Chicago in 1933 during the Century of Progress Exposition. Another noted Eagleville citizen was Sterling C. Edmonds who invented the trailer truck which was utilized by the United States government during World War I.

Although the population of this community in the southwestern corner of Rutherford County numbers only 444, it is a progressive and growing section of the county.

Post–World War Two

Following World War II and continuing into the 1980s significant social, economic, and technological changes have taken place in Rutherford County as well as in the state and nation.

John Mankin

Sam Ridley

Vester Waldron

Fred Hobbs

When the news of the surrender of the Japanese was aired in 1945, it was brought into Rutherford County homes by Nashville radio stations. By January 1, 1947, however, the county had its first radio station, WGNS. It was followed in November of 1953 by WMTS, and in 1969 by WMOT, at station owned and operated by Middle Tennessee State University. Today, this university station is the only one in Middle Tennessee to offer a 24-hour jazz musical program. The station also carries news of local interest, campus happenings, and announcements of special events. Murfreesboro and Rutherford County now receive cable television broadcasting. Murfreesboro's first television station, Channel 39, went on the air December 30, 1983. According to John Rattliff, president, most of the programming will be family-oriented with news, movies, and community happenings. The station operates on 5 million watts and has a range of approximately 80 miles.

The Murfreesboro Airport, known today as the International Flight Center Incorporation, completed its administration building and was in operation by 1952. At present the Flight Center has a contract with Middle Tennessee State University which permits students enrolled in the aeronautics department to use the airport facilities for flight training and instruction. Plans are now being made to lengthen the runways at this facility. The city will pay five percent of the costs, the state of Tennessee five percent, and the federal government 90 percent.

In 1951, Murfreesboro, with aid from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, began the removal of hundreds of substandard dwellings from an area referred to as "the Bottoms." Replacing this slum area was the Broad Street Development Project which connected with Highway 41, a four-lane turnpike leading from Murfreesboro to Nashville. In addition, federal housing facilities for low-income families were erected within the city. The latest of this type of housing, which came to Murfreesboro in 1981, was the Westbrooks Towers, a subsidized housing facility for senior citizens. The facility is named in honor of W. H. Westbrooks who, as mayor of Murfreesboro at the time, was instrumental in securing the project for the town.

The city skyline continues to change with the addition of other multi-storied buildings. Among these are two seven-story, high-rise dormitories on the Middle Tennessee State University campus and the Cavalry Banking-Federal Savings and Loan building, the city police building, the Mid-South Bank and Trust building, and the new Justice building on the public square.

A decade of anxiety began with the 1960s—a period characterized by tensions between the races, sexes, and generations. The insecurities of the times were felt by all the county's citizens, although there was very little unrest on the Middle Tennessee State University campus. For the sake of harmony the university removed the Nathan Bedford Forrest logo from its stationery, the Raider mascot was eliminated and replaced with one that carries no reference to Civil War times, and college groups refrain from singing "Dixie" at university functions. The integration of public schools, instituted as a result of the Supreme Court Decision of 1964, was put into operation with only slight protests.

The population of Central High School on East Main Street bulged to over 2600 as a result of integration, and the county board of education made plans for the erection of two new high schools—Riverdale and Oakland. The integration of schools revealed the need to place an emphasis on certain aspects of special education. Head Start and Classroom on Wheels were two such programs designed to provided needed preschool experiences for disadvantaged students.

The 1960s also brought about the increased involvement of women and black leaders in the civic and political affairs of Rutherford County. Robert Scales, elected in 1964 to membership on the Murfreesboro City Council, was the first black official to hold an elective office in the county. At present he serves the city as vice-mayor and is a member of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. His wife, Mary Scales, is a member of the faculty of Middle Tennessee State University, serving as director of continuing education and public service. In 1968 Mrs. Eska Garrison became the first woman to be elected to a position on the Rutherford County Board of Education. In 1982 Mrs. Mary Huhta became the first woman to be elected to the Murfreesboro

Murfreesboro City Council in 1984. Mayor Joe Jackson, seated. Standing left to right, Vice Mayor Robert Scales, Mary Huhta, John Corlew, Richard Reeves, and John Pittard

City Council. Mrs. Ola J. Hutchings, in 1972, was the first black woman to become a member of the county board of education. Following Mrs. Hutchings' death in 1975 Mrs. Lydia Glanton assumed her responsibilities. Mrs. Johnella Martin, a daughter of Mrs. Hutchings and a Rutherford Countian, is presently serving on the Tennessee State Board of Regents. In 1966 Mrs. Christine Huddleston became the first woman in the history of the county to be elected to membership on the county board of commissioners. Two years later Mrs. Isabel Kilgo became the first black woman to be elected as a county commissioner. Other blacks who have served as commissioners are Johnny Murray and Allen McAdoo (presently serving). Mrs. Nannie Rucker has served for the last ten years as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention—the first black person to hold this position. Mrs. Susie Rucker has the distinction of being the first black woman to serve as a member of the Murfreesboro City Board of Education, having been elected in 1974.

In 1950 Rutherford County took its first step towards changing the direction of its economy. Local business men formed an industrial committee for the purpose of seeking firms that might be interested in locating in the county. Swartzbaugh, a manufacturer of hospital and food service equipment, came to Murfreesboro in 1951, and this blue-chip industrial firm opened the way for a diverse group of high-caliber industries that were to find friendly operational bases in the county during the next three decades. A sampling of these industries includes: Alton Box Company, corrugated shipping containers; Better Bilt Aluminum Company, storm doors and windows; Bridgestone Tire and Rubber Company; Chromalox, electric heating elements; Cummings Incorporation, illuminated signs, General Electric, electric motors; Greer Smyrna, lock nuts; Heil Quaker, distributor of air and heating units; Heritage Farms Dairy; Hodge Manufacturing Company, automotive parts; International Paper Company, corrugated shipping cartons; Paramount Packaging Company, flexible packaging material; Perfect Equipment Company, wheel balancing weights; Samsonite, a manufacturer of folding furniture; State Farm Insurance Company; and White Stag, sports clothing. The latest industry to come to the county is the Nissan plant, a Japanese manufacturer of light trucks. This plant, located in Smyrna, officially opened on October 21, 1983. The $500 million plant houses the most modern equipment in the world under its 60 roofed acres. This equipment includes 36 commercial robots for automatic spraying in the paint shop and 174 robots for the body shop and other operations. In addition to these industries the old Sewart Air Force Base is populated by several smaller businesses along with Capital Airways which has its national headquarters there.

The coming of industry to Rutherford County has caused the population to skyrocket. The 1980 census showed that the county's population was 84,020. During the last three decades the city of Murfreesboro has experienced a large increase in its population, to 32,857 in 1980. These increases have caused both the county and the municipal areas to build more schools. The city of Murfreesboro now has six elementary schools. The for-

mer Central High School has been converted to a middle school housing over 1000 seventh and eighth graders. Several new schools have opened up in the Smyrna and La Vergne areas, the fastest-growing sections of the county at the present.

Industry and an increasing population have brought other changes to the county. In the past a Democratic stronghold, the county has witnessed a dramatic increase in the influence of the Republican Party. The visit of First Lady Rosalyn Carter to Murfreesboro in the summer of 1979 was an effort to counteract Republican influence on prospective voters. There has also been an improvement in medical facilities for the county. Middle Tennessee Medical Center (formerly Rutherford Hospital) has 288 adult beds, an emergency room staffed around the clock, and eight fully equipped operating rooms. Plans are being considered for a new hospital in Smyrna, with 100 beds and improved facilities. The present Smyrna Hospital is a 55-bed facility which offers general medical and surgical care and an emergency room staffed by doctors 24 hours a day. The 1000-bed Veterans Administration Medical Center currently offers psychiatric and alcohol treatment and plans are being made for a $17 million expansion which will permit the facility to offer medical and surgical services.

An increasing population has permitted the municipal areas of the county to extend their city limits, resulting in a larger tax base and more money for operating expenses. In August of 1983 city officials in La Vergne moved into a new $385,000 city hall, and Eagleville has laid the foundation for a community center. Condominiums, shopping malls, and supermarkets are a way of life in the county in the 1980s. The *Murfreesboro Press*, a weekly newspaper established in June of 1978, joined the *Daily News Journal* and the *Rutherford Courier* in bringing news to the county's citizens. The *Murfreesboro Press*, which evolved into the *Morning Press* in 1982 and became a daily paper under the ownership of Dr. Payne Hardison and Donald Keith, ceased publication in July of 1983 soon after moving into new headquarters on South Church Street. The Linebaugh Library, organized in September of 1947 with Mrs. Myla Parsons as director, is supported by both

the city of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. At one time it was housed in the old Eaton home on the former Union University campus. When a new post office was opened in Murfreesboro in 1962 the library was moved into the building on the corner of College and Church streets vacated by the postal authorities. Additions have been made to the structure which houses the approximately 80,000 books in the collection. Mrs. Briley Adcock now serves as director of the library which is one of the most popular facilities available to Rutherford Countians. The Linebaugh Library operates a branch library at Smyrna which has about 20,000 books in its collection.

At present there are over 200 churches in the county. Among the religious groups that have come into the county in recent years are: Seventh Day Adventists, Assemblies of God, Lutherans, Church of God, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and Holiness. One of the latest religious groups to organize in the county holds services in the Buddhist Temple located on the Old Nashville Highway. The temple, called "Wat Saophut" in Laotian, claims between 600 and 700 Laotians as members. There are presently three monks at the temple with Seuam Chanthalavong being the head monk. Many local people have attempted to help the Laotians who have moved into the Rutherford County community. County school officials have secured instructors who can converse in their language thus helping to ease the transition process.

During recent years there has been an increase in the county of cultural and entertainment activities. At times various organizations conduct arts and crafts fairs. The county has a number of artists and craftsmen, both amateur and professional, some with their own studios and galleries. One of the best-known craftsmen in the community is Lewis Snyder, who is nationally known for his creations. His pottery has been purchased by notables such as U. S. Senator Howard Baker and has been presented to other senators and foreign diplomats. Snyder designed a five-piece place setting of dinnerware for former First Lady Rosalyn Carter who used the 11 place settings at luncheons when she entertained wives of Senators. During President and Mrs.

Reagan's visit to the Worlds Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1982 a commemorative plate designed by Snyder was presented to them. Local and regional artists display their work at the Art Barn on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University and at the Murfreesboro Art League's gallery located in the pioneer village of Cannonsburgh. The Rutherford County Arts and Humanities Council, with Earl T. Hinton as acting director, works to coordinate cultural activities for the community. This council sponsors "Oktoberfest," a day of family fun and food, and the yearly "Street Festival." The Rutherford County Square Dancers and the Cripple Creek Cloggers, both directed by Steve Cates, offer their skills at the various community festivals. In May of 1982, at the invitation of the local dancing groups, an International Folkfest was held in Murfreesboro and featured dance groups from many foreign countries. The University-Community Symphony Orchestra which performs at the Dramatic Arts Building on the university campus is active on the music scene. The Murfreesboro Little Theatre and the MTSU Theatre, as well as the three county high schools, Riverdale, Oakland, and Smyrna, provide dramatic entertainment for the community.

Murfreesboro has a comprehensive recreational program involving tennis, baseball, softball, swimming, and soccer. Similar programs are conducted at Smyrna and La Vergne. Hiking and horseback riding trails in the county provide opportunities for those who like this type of outdoor entertainment. There are also bike routes that enable a rider to select a ride of desired length. Plans are underway at the present to erect a municipal golf course at Old Fort Park. The International Grand Championship Walking Horse Show has been held in Murfreesboro for the last four years. This is the second largest horse show of its kind in the country, and the 1982 edition drew a crowd of approximately 40,000 spectators.

Special Celebrations

Three special events highlighted activities in Rutherford County in the 1960s and the 1970s—the Civil War Centennial, the Murfreesboro Sesquicentennial, and the national Bicenten-

nial celebration. The Civil War Centennial was observed on two occasions. The first of these was during the week of July 9–15, 1962, and featured the military exploits of the southern cavalry leader, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. The second observance was on January 1, 1963, and commemorated the Battle of Stones River. The Nathan Bedford Forrest Chapter of the Civil War Round Table provided the leadership in the organization and execution of the observance. Activities included: the daily firing of a cannon salute (this was discontinued after the third day because of window breakage in stores near the public square where the artillery was mounted); a costume luncheon; book exhibits; a Confederate memorial service held at Evergreen Cemetery with Stanley Horn as speaker; a visit to Murfreesboro by the famous locomotive, "The General," which was displayed on a spur track near Highway 41; and a reenactment of Forrest's Raid on the courthouse. Other activities included a parade, a costume ball, a musket-firing contest, a Sam Davis pageant held at the Davis home near Smyrna, and a brief ceremony conducted at the Stones River National Battlefield. An incident of levity connected with the observance was the discovery one morning at dawn of the Johnny Reb monument on the public square attired in a flowing cheesecloth skirt with a half pumpkin atop his kepi. Rutherford County and Murfreesboro received nationwide publicity for their Civil War observance with wire releases from as far away as California reporting the window breakage from the early morning artillery salute.

The Murfreesboro Sesquicentennial, held in October 1967, commemorated the incorporation of the city on October 17, 1817. The celebration was marked by the usual parades, speeches, and banquets. The clutter of weeds surrounding the gravesite of Capt. William Lytle, Murfreesboro's founding father, was cleared away, and appropriate ceremonies honoring this early pioneer were held by the Capt. William Lytle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The tombstones in the Old City Cemetery on East Vine Street were uprighted and debris and tall weeds removed. Dedication ceremonies were held there where many of the earliest settlers of the county were buried. A musical play,

entitled "See Here, Black Fox," written by County Historian Homer Pittard and directed by Thomas Harris, was presented in the open air near Oaklands Mansion. This pageant depicted the history of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County during the 150-year period.

The bicentennial celebration was observed in Rutherford County beginning in February of 1976 and lasting until October of the same year. The observance was marked by countywide participation. Activities included religious services, community sings, exhibits of arts and crafts, concerts, field days, parades, barbecues, receptions, and pageants. A "Day on the Farm" was held at the Sam Davis home in Smyrna; a reception was held at Oaklands; and there was a gala gathering at the James K. Polk Hotel with dancing on the sidewalks and in the street in front of the hotel.

One of the most outstanding events was the dedication of Cannonsburgh, a pioneer village constructed in conjunction with the bicentennial activities. This project was launched in November of 1975 with aid from a federal bicentennial grant of $75,000. The Public Service Employment Program under the supervision of the Rutherford County executive officer, Ben Hall McFarlin, furnished all of the labor for the project. There was some additional federal money available from community development funds which was used to rechannel Town Creek in order to prevent flooding of the village. No local money was used on the project.

Through the leadership of Murfreesboro's mayor, W. H. Westbrooks, the project was almost completed when it was opened to the public during the bicentennial period of 1976. The village, called Cannonsburg as a reminder of the first name given by the General Assembly to what is now Murfreesboro, depicts early southern life from the 1800s to the turn of the century.

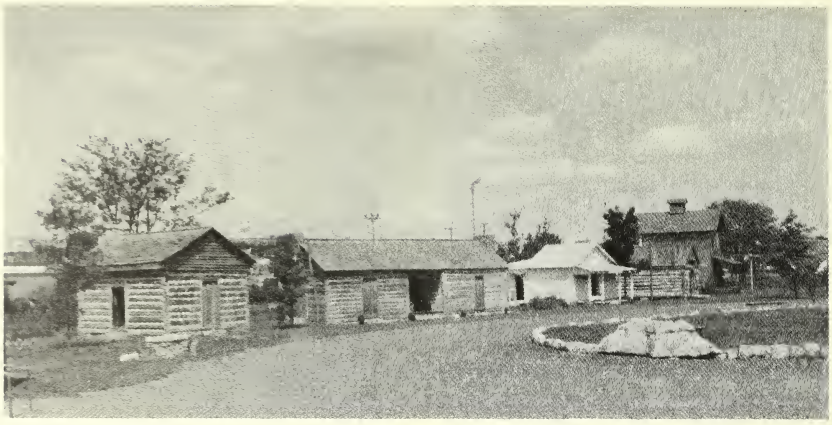
Near the entrance to the village is a log structure which houses the Murfreesboro-Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. Buildings in the village proper include a country store originally located at Link, Tennessee, and operated at that time by J. S. Westbrooks; a blacksmith shop, fully equipped and operable; and

W. H. Westbrooks

Jesse Beesley

the former Haynes cotton gin which is representative of a once important and basic industry in Rutherford County. There is a small church with stained-glass windows and a nearby gravesite containing only one stone—that of Joel Childress, father of Mrs. James K. Polk. A gazebo houses the largest cedar bucket in the world. Other buildings in the village include a gristmill, which is operable and representative of the water-powered mills that existed in the county in the early 1800s; a log school building; a telephone exchange; a doctor's office equipped with medical instruments from an early period; and the Town Hall. A windmill, an early locomotive, and displays of 19th century farm implements add interesting touches to the village scene.

A particularly interesting sight at Cannonsburg is a 12′ x 14′ flatboat, the Adventure II, which during the bicentennial celebration retraced the journey made in 1780 by John Donelson and his party from Kingsport on the Holston River to Nashville. The 1976 flotilla consisted of three flatboats and the crews manning them served for a period of one week before being replaced by fresh crews. Bertha Chrietzberg and Lester Levi, both of Murfreesboro, took part in this reenactment. The Adventure II



A view of Cannonsburgh

is now moored on Town Creek to the rear of one of the log buildings.

An additional building serves as an exhibit room for the local art league and contains a battlerama, designed and constructed by Robert Ragland, depicting the Battle of Stones River. Cannonsburgh was judged as one of the top 16 bicentennial projects in the country.

Another outstanding event of the bicentennial celebration was the unveiling of an obelisk, erected near the Old Lascassas Pike, which marked the exact center of the state. The Rutherford County Historical Society sponsored the project commemorating the designation of the geographical center of Tennessee. Dedication ceremonies and the unveiling took place on June 26, 1976.

Personalities

There are a number of other outstanding Rutherford County personalities who have contributed to the growth and development of the community and who have not previously been mentioned. Writers of note include the distinguished sportswriter and poet Grantland Rice, novelist and poet Will Allen Dromgoole, novelist and magazine editor Andrew Lytle, and journalist Ed Bell, author of two novels, *Fish on the Steeple* and *Tommy Lee*

Mary Noailles Murfree

Sarah Hughey King

Feathers. A newcomer to the literary scene is Robert Herring whose first novel, *Hub*, was published in 1981. Mary Noailles Murfree, a talented writer of Victorian fiction, wrote under the pseudonym of Charles Egbert Craddock because of prejudice against women writers at the time. Newspaper writer and editor, Jesse C. Beesley, has gained national recognition with his bronze sculptures of children. Murfreesboro native, Jean Marie Faircloth, wife of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, bravely remained by her husband's side at frontline positions throughout World War II. In 1953 Mrs. MacArthur brought her husband and son to Murfreesboro for a visit. Mrs. Sarah King, the first Tennessean elected president general of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and physician Rhea Seddon, a NASA trainee scheduled for a 1984 flight on the Space Shuttle, are also Rutherford Countians. Bruce Higdon, a native of the county and current artist-in-residence at the Gallery Seville in Murfreesboro, is gaining renown as a multimedia artist whose cartoons are carried in newspapers across the country. Other notables include

James D. Richardson, congressman and jurist; Mary Ellen Vaughn, newspaper editor, teacher, and humanitarian; Dr. J. B. Murfree, surgeon; and Uncle Dave Macon, an original performer on the Grand Ole Opry.

A Look to the Future

Despite inflation, recession, and the unemployment that has resulted from reductions in the labor force of local industries, Rutherford County remains a growing and prosperous community. Because of its location in the exact center of the state, an increasing number of state-wide athletic, political, religious, and cultural activities are being brought to Murfreesboro. Many of these events are held in the 10,000 seat multipurpose Murphy Center located on the campus of the Middle Tennessee State University.

Rutherford County has come a long way from the log cabin days to a thriving industrial community. The road has not always been easy. The pathway has often been strewn with reverses and heartaches; however, Rutherford citizens with faith, stamina, and fortitude have met the critical tests and have proven conclusively that they, along with the nation, could face the trials which have beset them.

Appendices

A. Signers of the Petition of 1803

Andrews, David
Anthony, John
Barfield, Frederick
Barfield, James
Bedford, J. R.
Buchanan, George
Campbell, Samuel
Carter, William
Clarke, Jesse
Dement, Abner
Dement, Cader
Dyer, John
Edwards, Benjamin
Edwards, John
Edwards, Owen
Edwards, William
Fleming, John
Gambil, John
Gillespie, George
Gillespie, James
Gordon, David
Gowen, Joseph
Griffin, John
Hardeman, Constant
Harper, John
Herndon, Joseph
Hill, James
Howell, Joe
Howell, William
Jenkins, Hiram
Jetton, John
Jetton, Robert
Johns, John
Kelton, Robert
Kelton, William
Kimbro, William
Lawrence, John
LeGrand, Peter
Lytle, William
McBride, Samuel
McCulloch, Alexander
McKinney, Sam
Martin, William
Matthews, Dudly
Matthews, Robert
Menify, Nimrod
Miller, Jacob
Miller, John
Mitchell, Mark
Mitchell, Thomas
Mitchell, William
More, Alex
Morrow, John
Morton, James
Morton, Joseph
Nance, Bird
Nance, William
Nash, William
Nelson, Thomas
Nevins, Issac
Newman, Joseph
Nichols, Joseph
Nichols, Joshua
Norman, James
Norman, John
Nugent, John
Olliphant, James
Orman, William
Ready, Charles
Rodgers, David
Rucker, Thomas
Sawyers, Thomas
Searcy, William
Sherwood, Hugh
Sherwood, Daniel
Ship, Joseph
Smith, Cinningham
Smith, John
Smith, Robert
Smith, William
Smothers, John
Sullins, John
Tennison, Joseph
Thompson, John
Thompson, Thomas
Tucker, William
White, C. G.
Whitsett, James
Williams, David
Wills, James
Wilson, Samuel
Wright, Isaac
Wright, Lemuel
Young, John H.

B. Mayors of Murfreesboro

1818—Joshua Haskell
1819—David Wendell
1820—Robert Purdy
1821—Henry Holmes
1822 & 1823—W. R. Rucker
1824—John Jones
1825—William Ledbetter
1826—S. R. Rucker
1827—William Ledbetter
1828—John Smith
1829—Edward Fisher
1830—John Smith
1831—James C. Moore
1832—Charles Ready
1833—Charles Niles
1834—Marman Spence
1835—M. Spence
1836—Edward Fisher
1837—L. H. Carney
1838—E. A. Keeble
1839—Edward Fisher
1840—G. A. Sublett
1841 & 1842—B. W. Farmer
1843—H. Yoakum
1844—Wilson Thomas
1845 & 1846—B. W. Farmer
1847 & 1848—John Leiper
1849, 1850, 1851, 1852 & 1853—Charles Ready
1854—F. Henry
1855—E. A. Keeble
1856, 1857, 1858 & 1859—Joseph B. Palmer
1860 & 1861—John W. Burton
1862—John Dromgoole
1863 & 1864—James Monroe Tompkins*
1865 & 1866—R. D. Reed
1867—Charles Ready
1868 & 1869—E. L. Jordan
1870—Thomas B. Darragh
1871—Joseph A. January
1872 & 1873—I. B. Collier
1874 & 1875—Dr. J. B. Murfree
1876—H. H. Kerr
1877—H. H. Clayton
1878 & 1879—N. C. Collier
1880 & 1881—James Clayton
1882 & 1883—E. F. Burton
1884 & 1885—J. M. Overall
1886 & 1887—H. E. Palmer
1888 through 1895—Tom H. Woods
1896 & 1897—J. T. Wrather
1898 & 1899—J. O. Oslin
1900 through 1909—J. H. Crichlow
1910 through 1918—Dr. G. B. Giltner (Defeated 4-16-1918) N. C. Maney elected by commission 5-18-1918
1919, 1920, 1921, 1922—N. C. Maney
1923 through 1931—Al D. McKnight
1933 & 1934—N. C. Maney
1935 & 1936—W. T. Gerhardt

*Tompkins is not usually named in the list of mayors since his terms of office fell within the years that Murfreesboro was under Federal occupation.

1937, 1938, 1939, & 1940—
W. A. Miles
1941 & 1942—W. T. Gerhardt
1943, 1944, 1945, & 1946—
W. A. Miles
1947, 1948, 1949 & 1950—
John T. Holloway
1951, 1952, 1953 & 1954—
Jennings A. Jones
1955 through 1964—
A. L. Todd, Jr.
1964 through 1981—
W. H. Westbrooks*
1982—Joe Jackson

**W. H. Westbrooks' 18 year tenure is the longest of any mayor.

C. *1984 Murfreesboro City Council*

Joe B. Jackson—Mayor
Robert Scales—Vice-Mayor
Martin McCullough
Robert E. Corlew, III
Mary Huhta
John Pittard
Richard Reeves

D. *Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, 1984*

E. A. Bowman
Carl Brown
James C. Cope
Hubert Council
Edwin Davenport
Robert Ealy
Jerry Gaither
Homer Cannon
Margaret M. Haynes
Joe Black Hayes
Grant Kelly
Allen McAdoo
Jerry Oxsher
John R. Palmer
Bob Peay
Steve Todd
Vester Waldron
James R. Ward
Roy Wood
Mike Woods
Buddy Woodson

Suggested Readings

Bond, John. *History of the Concord Baptist Association.* 1860

Catton, Bruce. *Never Call Retreat: The Centennial History of the Civil War.* Garden City: Doubleday & Company, 1965.

Carr, John. *Early Times in Tennessee.* Nashville, 1857.

Davidson, Donald. *The Tennessee.* 2 vols. New York: Rinehart & Company, 1946, 1948.

Folmsbee, Stanley J., Robert E. Corlew, and Enoch L. Mitchell. *Tennessee: A Short History.* Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1969.

Galloway, J. J. *Geology and Natural Resources of Rutherford County.* Tennessee Geological Survey. Nashville: Williams, 1919.

Goodspeed, Weston A. *History of Tennessee, From the Earliest Time To the Present.* Nashville, 1886. (Reprint edition by Woodward & Stinson, Columbia, TN., 1971.)

Henderson, C. C. *The Story of Murfreesboro.* Murfreesboro: News-Banner Publishing Company, 1929.

Hughes, Mary B. *Hearthstones.* Murfreesboro: Mid-South Publishing Company, 1942.

Luther, Edward T. *Our Restless Earth.* Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1977.

Lytle, Andrew N. *Bedford Forrest and His Critter Company.* New York: Menton, Balch, 1931. (Reprint edition by Putnam, 1947.)

Morris, Eastin. *Tennessee Gazetteer.* Nashville: W. H. Hunt, 1834.

Pittard, Homer. "Legends and Stories of the Civil War in Rutherford County." Unpubl. Master's thesis, Peabody College, 1940.

Pittard, Mabel. "The Coleman Scouts." unpubl. Master's thesis, Middle Tennessee State College, 1953.

Rutherford County Historical Society Bulletins. Volumes 1–20, 1973–1983.

Sims, C. C., Ed. *A History of Rutherford County.* Murfreesboro: The Editor, 1947.

Index

Illustrations are indicated by an asterisk following the page number.

Absalom Scales house, 115*
Adcock, Mrs. Briley, 122
Agriculture, 34, 63–64, 105, 106
Alexander, Andrew M., 36
Anthony, Lewis, 19
Armstrong, James Landon, 38

Baptists, 49, 57–60
Barksdale, William, 82–83
Bedford, Thomas, 15, 25, 39
Beesley, Jesse C., 99, 127*, 129
Bell, John, 38, 39, 47, 66
Bicentennial celebration, 126
Black, Samuel P., 46–47
Black Fox, 8
Black Fox Springs, 4, 8, 13, 15, 26, 34
Blacks, 17, 90, 91, 119; in public office, 119, 120; churches, 92–93; schools, 101, 119. *See also* Slaves.
Bradley Academy, 46–47, 51, 83
Bradley School, 101
Bragg, Braxton, 72, 74–77, 85, 86, 87
Braswell, Robert, 109
Breckinridge, John C., 72, 75–77
Brown, Joseph, 13–14
Brown's Mill, 21, 22*
Buchanan, John Price, 96–97*
Bucket Factory, 94–95

Cannonsburgh, 27, 126–128*
Carlton, W. B., 109
Carney, F. G., 101
Cedar, 32, 94, 95
Childress, Joel, 50–51
Childress, Sarah, 50–53, 52*
Childress home, 52*, 54
Church of Christ, 61–62*, 93
Churches, 54–63, 92–93, 123
Civil War, 66–90; centennial, 125
Coffee, John, 35, 36, 47
Coleman Scouts, 85–90
Commerce, 64–65; waterborne, 19, 31–32
Confederate monument, 98
Cope, Quill E., 104
Courthouse, 25, 27, 37, 39, 63, 64*, 69–70, 107
Crittenden, T. T., 68, 70, 77
Culture and entertainment, 123–124

Davis, John, 86, 89
Davis, Sam, 85, 87–89
Depression, the, 108–109
Dickinson, David, 38
Dickinson, Sally, 38
Dickson, Joseph, 42, 57
Doctors, early, 38
Dodge, G. M., 86–87, 88, 89
Donelson, John, 10
Duffield, William, 68, 70–71
Dyer, Robert Henry, 36, 37

Eagleton, William, 56
Eagleville, 114–116, 122
Early mills, 19–22
Early schools, 48
Early settlers, 16, 110, 113, 114
Early settlements, 14–18
Eaton, John Haywood, 49, 58–59; grave of, 102
Edmonds, Sterling C., 116
Education, 46–50, 91–92, 101–102, 108, 111–112, 113, 116
Elam, Thomas Jefferson, 21
Electricity, 98–99
Epidemics, 43
Evergreen Cemetery, 96, 108

Famous people, 128–130
Farmer's Alliance, 96
Featherston, Winfield Scott, 83–84
Finley, J. R., 49
First automobile, 98
First Baptist Church (Murfreesboro), 57–58, 60*
First Methodist Church (Murfreesboro), 61, 62*
First National Bank of Rutherford

County, 112
Fitch, John, 78
Fletcher, James Franklin, 58
Flood of 1902, 99
Forrest, Nathan Bedford, 68–72, 111, 125
Forrest's Raid on Murfreesboro, 68–72, 125
Fortress Rosecrans, 78–81
Fowler, T. B., 95

Garfield, James A., 62, 75, 78
Garrett, W. B., 43
Gibson, John H., 36, 37

Hardeman, Constant, 32
Haskell, William, 42
Hazen's Brigade Monument, 80
Heimark, C. R., 114–115
Henderson, James, 35
Henderson, Robert, 47, 55
Herrod, Joe Frank, 109
Hinton, Earl T., 124
Historical background, 8–14
Hobbs, Fred, 115–116, 117*
Hodge, Samuel, 54, 110
Holloway, E. C., 101–102
Holloway High School, 101
Houston, Sam, 45–46, 55
Hughes, Madison Redd, 116
Humphreys, Parry, 42

Indian trails, 7
Indians, 6–8; attacks on settlers, 11–12
Industry, 105–106, 112, 113–114, 116, 121
Ingram, Sam H., 104
Inspection officials, early, 31

Jackson, Andrew, 39, 40, 55
Jackson Todd Stage Co., 43
Jefferson, 15, 19, 25–26, 30–33
Jefferson Seminary of Learning, 47
Jennings, Peter, 17
Jetton, J. W., 44
Jobe, Dewitt, 85, 86*, 89–90
Jones, P. S., 101
Jones, R. L., 103
J. Percy Priest Resevoir, 22, 33

Keeble, E. A., 78
Keeble, Marshall, 93*–94
King, Jeanette Moore, 100*–101
Kirksey, Howard, 104

La Vergne, 113–114, 122, 124
Ledbetter, William, 48
Ledbetter, Capt. William, 48, 68
Lester, Henry C., 71
Linebaugh Library, 122–123
Lyon, P. A., 108
Lytle, Nancy Taylor, 29
Lytle, William, 16, 26–27, 28–30, 35*, 55, 125

Maney, James, 17–18, 38, 68, 96
Maney, Thomas, 58
Maney, Sally Murfree, 30
Mankin, John, 117*
Mason, P. P., 95, 96
McCulloch, Ben, 84
McCulloch, Henry Eustace, 85
McCullough, Hubert, 109
McFarland, Ben Hall, 126
McGill, Frances, 97
Medical facilities, 38, 106, 122
Methodists, 49, 60–61
Mexican War, 44–46
Middle Tennessee State University, 103–104
Militia, 34
Miller, Daniel, 79–81
Mitchell, James C., 41, 45
Mitchell, Mark, 31
Mooney, W. D., 101
Mooney School, 101
Morgan, John Hunt, 72, 73*
Murfree, Hardy, 17, 30
Murfree, Mary Noailles, 129*
Murfree family, 17–18
Murfreesboro, 27–28, 39, 40, 41, 91, 95–96, 98; airport, 107, 118; as state capital, 38–39, 55–56; Banks, 37, 64, 96, 100, 108; early settlers, 16; first officials, 27–28; water works, 42, 95; during Civil War, 56, 59, 62; urban renewal, 118, 119; mayors of, 132–133
Murfreesboro City Council, 120*, 133
Murfreesboro Female Academy, 47–48
Murfreesboro Female Seminary, 48
Murfreesboro Normal, 103
Murfreesboro Presbyterian Church, 54–57, 56*
Murfreesboro Sesquicentennial, 125
Murfreesboro Street Railway, 95

Nash, William, 31

Nashville & Chattanooga RR, 80, 90, 111
Newspapers, 37, 40, 66–67, 96, 99, 113, 122
Northcutt, R. S., 66

Oaklands Mansion, 30, 68, 69, 70, 72
Ore, James, 8, 12–14; expedition, 12–14
Overall, Nathaniel, 16
Overall, N. D., 100

Palmer, Joseph, 81–82
Patterson, William Lytle, 94
Parks, James D., 109
Pendleton, James Madison, 59
Personalities, 128–130
Pilot Knob, 5
Polk, James K., 39, 40, 44, 47, 51–52, 53, 55
Polk, Mrs. James K. *See* Childress, Sarah.
Polk, Leonidas, 72
Population, 4, 15, 34, 41, 98, 113, 116, 121
Presbyterians, 54–57

Radio and TV, 118
Ragland, Bob, 29
Railroads, 43, 66, 111
Ready, Charles, 17, 20, 24, 26, 69, 72
Ready, Charles, Jr., 39, 41
Reconstruction, 90–91
Ridley, B. L., 95
Ridley, James A., 105
Ridley, Mrs. G. S., 105
Ridley, Sam, 113, 117*
River traffic, 19, 31–32
Roads, 26, 37, 43, 65–66
Robertson, James, 10, 11, 12–14
Robinson, Hugh, 26, 28
Rosecrans, William Stark, 74–78 passim.
Rounds, Oliver, 68, 70
Rucker, Thomas, 16, 19, 24, 26
Rucker, William R., 38
Rutherford, Griffith, 17, 23–24
Rutherford County: Arts and Humanities Commision, 124; Board of Commissioners, 133; boundaries, 23; economy of, 37, 63, 64; Fair Assoc., 107; early officers, 34; Health Dept., 106–107; geographical center of state, 1, 22*, 128; geography of, 1–5; map, 2; members of first court and first officials, 24; organization of, 22–23

Salem Methodist Church, 60
Saloons, 96, 99
Sam Davis home, 111, 125
Scales, Absalom, 16, 114
Scales, Mary, 119
Scales, Robert, 119, 120*
Scarlett, Melvin, 104
Sewart, Harold, 109
Sewart Air Force Base, 33, 109, 121
Shaw, Henry B., 85, 86*, 89
Signers of Petition of 1803, 131
Sims, Swepson, 38
Slaves, 34, 50, 52, 55
Smith, John, 57
Smith, Quinton M., 104
Smyrna, 110–113, 124, 125
Smyrna Presbyterian Church, 54
Snyder, Lewis, 123
Soule College, 49–50, 61, 63
Spanish-American War, 97–98
Spence, John C., 94
Steamboats, 51
Stewart's Creek, 15, 54; first settlers, 16
Stones River, 5, 18–22, 99; navigation legislation, 32; Battle of, 72, 74–78

Tavern rates (1804), 24–25
Tennessee College, 102
Thompson, J. E., 95
Todd, Andrew, 102
Tornado of 1913, 104–105

Union University, 49, 58–59, 63, 102

Waldron, Vester, 113, 117*
War of 1812, 35–37
W. B. Earthman Red Cedar Lumber Co., 95
Weakley, Robert, 15, 23, 25, 39
Westbrooks, W. H., 118, 126, 127*
Whigs, 40–41
White, Mrs. John Valley, 33
Wilson, Samuel, 16
Windrow Camp Grounds, 61
Wood, William, 109
Women in public office, 119–120
World War I, 105
World War II, 109–110

Yandall, Wilson, 38
Yoakum, Henderson King, 35*, 44, 45–56

About the Author

Mabel Baxter Pittard is a native of Lawrence County, Tennessee. She came to Murfreesboro and Rutherford County following her marriage in 1937 to Homer Pittard, historian of Rutherford County from 1965 until his death in July of 1981. Mrs. Pittard's interest in history is evidenced by her membership in the Rutherford County Historical Society, the Oaklands Association, the Sam Davis Association, the Colonel Hardy Murfree Chapter, DAR, the Magna Charta Dames, and the Plantagenet Society. She received her B.S. and M.A. degrees from what is now Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. She wrote her masters thesis on the "Coleman Scouts." Also, Mrs. Pittard is the author of the *Dames-1927 to 1971*, a history of the Dames Club of Middle Tennessee State University. Her teaching career of 37 years included Lawrence County, Rutherford County, and Murfreesboro City school systems. She is a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional organization for women teachers, and the Tennessee Retired Teachers Association. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro where she serves as assistant librarian.